



THE INDEPENDENT

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IN THE MONDAY REVIEW + NETWORK



New pensions windfall for 60,000

THOUSANDS OF victims of the pensions mis-selling scandal are to receive extra compensation payments averaging £3,000 because of a blunder in the way their entitlements were calculated.

The additional payments, to up to 60,000 people, will add about £200m to the pension industry's bill for clearing up the scandal. But it will also mean a further delay of up to a year settling claims because of the number of cases that now need to be reviewed.

The Treasury's latest estimate puts the total cost of the scandal at £1.1bn. More than

BY ANDREW VERITY AND DIANE COYLE

600,000 victims, many of whom are already retired or have died, have been offered an average of £13,000 each in compensation.

But the watchdog conducting the review, the Financial Services Authority, has confirmed that many of them have been paid too little - because insurers failed to take account of changes in employment when they worked out the compensation.

The payments are designed to reimburse policy holders for

the employers' pension contributions that they missed out on by switching to a personal pension. More than £2.5bn has already been paid out.

But most payouts failed to take account of further losses accrued when victims changed jobs, thereby missing out on contributions from their new employer. Compensation was instead confined to the first job.

PricewaterhouseCoopers, one of the leading consultants helping insurers with the review, estimates that up to 60,000 cases will have to be reviewed. Payouts are likely to rise by 20 per cent each, or around £3,000.

The FSA only clarified the situation last month - four years after the review began in October 1994.

After pressure from the industry, the regulator issued a bulletin instructing firms to revisit all cases where a change in job may have taken place since the review began.

Ron Devlin, the FSA official in charge of the review, said: "Without a doubt, further compensation could be payable to some investors. If that weren't the case we wouldn't be asking firms to revisit these cases."

Joe Chiaro, a pensions review expert at Pricewater-

houseCoopers, said 90 per cent of firms involved would be sent back to the drawing-board. This would add up to a year to the time it will take to complete the review, he said.

"Every company that hasn't done this is going to have to revisit every case. Most of the companies involved in the review have not considered the new-employer scenario."

"The longer the issue is not addressed, the more it will cost."

The industry fears the £1.1bn compensation bill will rise still further because of the recent plunge in long-term interest

rates - a key factor in deciding how much compensation must be offered.

Insurers are privately expressing anger at the way the issue has been handled by financial regulators. They believe the situation should have been clarified much earlier.

Derek Adams, who heads a forum for project managers working on the review, said: "The real difficulty is that few companies are going to have records of job changes. So you'll have the nonsense of phoning people up and asking if they have changed jobs recently."

"This whole thing has been a nightmare from start to finish."

The pension mis-selling review, which began nearly four years ago, has been dogged by delay. More than 2 million people, including many nurses, teachers and local government staff, were wrongly advised between 1987 and 1994 to leave employers' pension schemes in favour of a personal pension.

After the election the Government stepped up the pressure on financial services firms which had mis-sold pensions to speed up compensation.

Companies which have mis-sold personal pensions are required to compensate victims for any reasonably foreseeable loss caused.

Recently MPs on the Treasury select committee said the pay of sales staff at financial service firms depended too heavily on commissions. In a report published last month they urged the Financial Services Authority, the City regulator, to develop guidance so that excessive dependence on commission-based selling can be reduced.

The pension review is now due to go into its next phase, compensating younger victims of mis-selling whose cases were deemed less urgent.

Hague's 'treachery' as Tory war intensifies

THE ROW over the future of the House of Lords last night plunged the Conservatives into open civil war between Tory peers and William Hague.

The Tory bloodletting continued yesterday when Lord Cranborne, who resigned last week as deputy Tory leader of the Lords, accused Mr Hague's private office of trying to "poison the reputation" of his former boss, Viscount Cranborne, after Mr Hague sacked the Tory peer for negotiating with Mr Blair behind his back.

Lord Fraser, who resigned last week out of loyalty to Lord Cranborne, told *The Independent* last night that he had received his accusation on BBC television's *Breakfast with Frost* because he was aware that the Tory leadership was continuing to accuse Lord Cranborne of treachery.

He was dismayed by attempts to justify the sacking by weekend reports that after seeing Mr Blair at Downing Street, Lord Cranborne met Alastair Campbell, the Prime Minister's chief spin doctor, last Monday to discuss the presentation of the deal.

"It's like saying he supped with the devil. He's not a friend of mine, but Alastair Campbell is not the devil incarnate," said Lord Fraser. "I am not interested in what Lord Cranborne negotiated with. The fact is he got a good deal."

Lord Fraser and other Tory peers believe the attacks on Lord Cranborne were intended to undermine the deal.

But Tory peers made it plain to Mr Hague yesterday that their party leader holds no sway with them. Lord St John of Fawley, the former Tory leader of the Commons, and Lord Alexander of Wooddon both put pressure on Mr Hague to only accept the deal which

BY COLIN BROWN
Chief Political Correspondent

will allow 91 hereditary peers to remain in the Lords until long-term reforms are brought in. "There can be no question of it not going ahead unless people behave with even greater stupidity than they have up until now," Lord St John told the BBC's *On the Record* programme.

Michael Ancram, the Tory party chairman, said Lord Cranborne's deal could not be accepted because it implied dropping opposition to Government Bills. But there is now growing evidence that Tory peers, behind their new leader, Lord Strathclyde, will ignore Mr Hague and support the deal when it is moved as an amendment to the Lords Reform Bill early in the new year.

The Government had hoped to bring the Bill into the Commons before Christmas, but Mr Blair has been advised that it needs redrawing to make sure the amendment is in order when it is tabled by Lord Weatherill, the former Tory speaker and chairman of the crossbench peers in the Lords.

Downing Street sources disclosed that the Government is now seeking to create an extra 55 life peers - double the number originally planned - to compensate Labour for the new deal in which 91 of the hereditary peers would be allowed to keep their seats. "We have done the calculations and reckon that to keep roughly in line with the Tories, we would need an extra 55 life peers," said a source.

The move could open Mr Blair to accusations of flooding the Lords with new life peers, but the sources said that even with the extra peers the Government would still not command a majority in the Lords.



Thai performers at the opening ceremony of the 13th Asian Games in Bangkok yesterday. Some 6,000 athletes from 43 nations will take part in the games. *Andrew Wong*

Gulf lobbyist and Cook aide run MPs' group

A SENIOR aide to Robin Cook is running an all-party group of MPs together with a lobbyist who represents Gulf states with appalling human rights records. *The Independent* has learned.

The revelation that Ken Purchase, the Foreign Secretary's parliamentary private secretary, has given Omar Al Hassan access to Parliament raises serious concerns about Labour's "ethical" foreign policy.

Mr Al Hassan, who runs a group called the Gulf Centre for Strategic Studies, recently accompanied nine MPs on a trip to Bahrain. The country has had no democracy since 1975 and dissidents have been tortured and murdered. In the

BY FRAN ABRAMS
Westminster Correspondent

late Eighties, Mr Al Hassan lobbied for Saddam Hussein.

On their return, the MPs received gifts of watches via Mr Purchase and were told it would be disconcerting to return them.

Mr Al Hassan, a Palestinian, is administrator of the All-Party Bahrain Group, whose secretary is Mr Purchase. In 1983 he was dismissed from a job with the Arab League in London after £15,500 went missing. He now runs the Gulf Centre for Strategic Studies, which works in this country on behalf of the Bahrain government.

One MP described Mr Al Hassan as being "like Ian Greer without the laughs ... I am astonished that Robin Cook is allowing his PPS to



Ken Purchase: Concern

fraternise with him". The MPs who went to Bahrain with Mr Purchase were Labour colleagues Lawrence Cunliffe, Lindsay Hoyle, Ashok Kumar, Dan Norris, Andy Love, and Claire Ward. The Tory MP Nigel Evans and Liberal Democrat Nigel Jones also went.

Mr Al Hassan said he had been wrongly dismissed by the Arab League and was the victim of a "political conspiracy". He said there was no shame in having lobbied for Iraq during the Eighties.

Mr Purchase said Bahrain had made immense steps in improving human rights and Mr Al Hassan's past was irrelevant.

Torture in Bahrain, page 3

John and Yoko joined in bed by Chris Evans

JOHN LENNON is to make his television advertising debut, 18 years after his murder in New York. The former Beatle will appear in a plug for mobile phones. Lennon's posthumous appearance, to be shown next week, may sound like bad taste, but it is part of a trend.

BY MEG CARTER AND KATHY MARKS

Dead celebrities can command big bucks, as advertisers are discovering, and the latest digital technology is enabling them to cash in as never before. In the One2One ad, DJ Chris

Evans is taken back to Lennon's famous peace protest in Amsterdam when he spent a week in bed with Yoko Ono.

In the US, dead people are particularly sought after to promote products. One licensing agent recently acquired the commercial exploitation rights

to Marilyn Monroe at auction, for \$7m (£4.3m) - a year.

Previous One2One ads have featured deceased celebrities including Elvis Presley and Martin Luther King. Blending old and new footage is nothing new. But new technology means dead personalities

can now interact seamlessly with or even endorse products developed long after their death and it is raising calls for limits on how far advertisers should be allowed to go.

Research to be published this week shows that 90 per cent of the public want the law

changed to force advertisers to obtain permission from surviving family members.

In the US advertisers eager to use a dead celebrity must first secure a licence from those managing the estate - but there is no such requirement in the UK.

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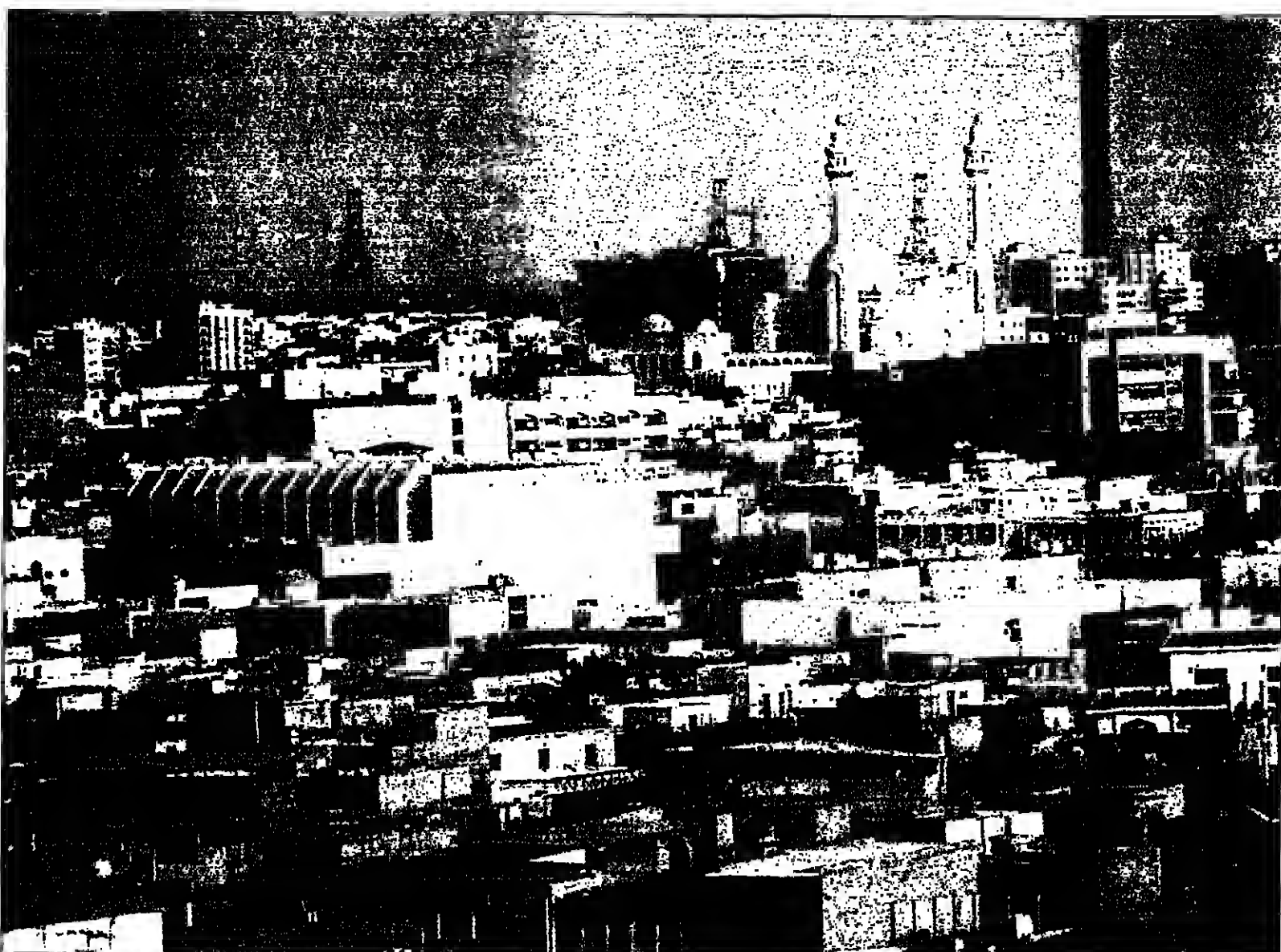
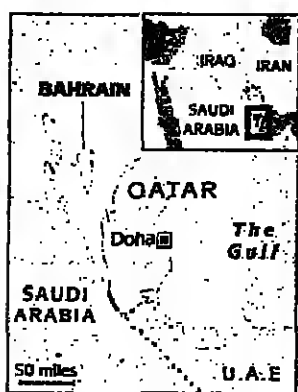
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Strange ethics that makes friends with a state that tortures children



DETAINED BY STATE

Sheikh Abdul Amir al-Jamri, an elected member of Bahrain's dissolved national assembly and informal head of the country's most broadly based opposition group, the Bahrain Freedom Movement, has been imprisoned without charge since January 1996. A government official said there was proof his group was involved in a bombing, but three years later he has not been formally accused of any crime. His family have been allowed just a few brief visits.

Maryam As'ad al-Arabi, aged 20, was arrested last month with two other women, Salwa Hassan Haidar and Hanan Salman Haidar, both 30. The women have been held incommunicado since security forces ransacked their houses.

Salwa Hassan Haidar is reported by Amnesty International to have been beaten on the soles of her feet and suspended by her limbs. It is thought that the women and other detainees may have been used as "hostages" for relatives sought by the authorities.

Muhammad Ali Muhammad-'Ikri, now 17, was arrested for the third time last month. His family has been denied access and Amnesty International fears he may be suffering torture and abuse. The teenager was first taken in at the age of 14, accused of throwing a petrol bomb. He was sentenced to 10 years, which was overturned. In February he was arrested again, and released a month later.

FRAN ABRAHAMS

MINISTERS have maintained close contact with their counterparts in Bahrain despite the country's record of torture and extra-judicial killings.

The warm relations between Britain and the Gulf state raise fresh questions about the new "ethical dimension" which Robin Cook has introduced into Britain's foreign policy.

Defence ministers meet regularly through a body called the Bahrain British Defence Committee. Britain has 85 defence staff based in Bahrain and members of the country's armed forces are invited to defence colleges in this country for training.

Bahrain was among a number of countries whose governments were invited to the Farnborough arms fair this year. In the 12 months after Labour won last year's general election, 24 export licences were granted for weapons to Bahrain. Exactly what has been sent is not clear but categories of arms approved for sale include the groups which cover all arms, armoured vehicles and surveillance systems.

A European Parliament resolution has called on EU member states to "refrain from supplying arms or security support to the Government of Bahrain".

The country, which is a former British colony, has maintained close links with the UK in many ways. For years, the head of security in Bahrain was a Scot, Ian Henderson, who was responsible for prison. He has now retired and another British ex-serviceman, Colonel Thomas Bryan, has

By FRAN ABRAHAMS
Westminster Correspondent

taken his place. The Minister of the Interior recently appointed a British solicitor, David Jump, as his legal adviser on human rights issues.

If Nato had gone ahead with bombing raids on Iraq this autumn, British Tornados would have taken off from an air base in Bahrain, where they are stationed.

The Foreign Office minister with responsibility for the Middle East, Derek Fatchett, told the House of Commons last year that campaigners for democracy in Bahrain were "moderate people with a moderate set of demands". He also raised the issue of human rights in meetings with the Bahraini ambassador and other senior figures.

However, close links which existed under the Conservative government still continue. As we report on page one today, a lobbyist, Omar Al Hassan, now administers the All-Party Bahrain Group in the House of Commons and recently took nine MPs there on a trip.

Although there have been some violent terrorist attacks in Bahrain, most pro-democracy campaigners say they would not condone such acts. They want a restoration of the country's partially elected assembly, which was dissolved in 1975, but a petition signed by 25,000 people has brought little change.

Bahrain has signed the UN Convention Against Torture, but brutal treatment is still used to extract confessions from suspected dissidents. The

US state department has estimated that in 1996 more than 3,000 people were detained, but only 117 were convicted. Some 1,500 of them were still in detention at the end of the year.

Many of those held are children - for example two 12-year-old boys were arrested, beaten up and released in September this year. Their parents were not told where they were.

In July a 22-year-old, Nooh Khalil Abdulla al-Nooh, was arrested. Two days later his mutilated body was handed back to his family, and he was buried next to Saeed al-Jiskafi, who suffered the same fate three years earlier.

Human rights abuses in Bahrain have been documented by Amnesty International, the US State Department, the Red Cross and the Human Rights Watch group.

Mr Al Hassan, the lobbyist for Bahrain who runs the Gulf Centre for Strategic Studies, said 41 deaths in four years was no worse than the records of Britain, Ireland or the United States.

They were really killed by terrorists. They do everything against their country. They are co-operating with extremists in Iran and other places," he said.

A spokesman for the Bahrain Freedom Movement said Britain's close relations with Bahrain should be used to apply pressure.

"So far we have seen some good statements from the Foreign Office and especially Derek Fatchett, but apart from that no tangible action has been recorded," he said.

Earlier this year Bahrain's ambassador to the UK, Abdul

Aziz Mubarak al Khalifa, engaged the British lobbyist Sir Tim Bell to co-ordinate protests to the Labour government after it granted asylum to three Bahraini dissidents.

In a memo to the ambassador, Sir Tim said the Foreign Office was "acutely embarrassed" by the Home Office decision but could do little about it.

He suggested the Bahrainis should use all their contacts to seek meetings with influential figures, including the Home Secretary, Jack Straw, and the

Downing Street advisers Roger Liddle and John Holmes.

While the decision could not be reversed, the Government should be told how Bahrain's more ethical foreign policy by opening up dialogue with organisations including the Red Cross and Amnesty International.

A new, more open approach had also included the organisation of fact-finding trips to Bahrain by British MPs "which have been positively received by all involved", the memo said.

Juliet Coombe/Rea

Globe's Cleopatra will be artistic director in drag

By DAVID LISTER
Arts News Editor

MARK RYLANCE, the artistic director of Shakespeare's Globe, is to cast himself as Cleopatra as the highlight of the theatre's summer season.

The 37-year-old actor will wear handmade costumes to play the role - the first time in living memory a mature male has played it for an internationally famous company.

Mr Rylance's decision to play the passionate Egyptian queen will have considerable reverberations in theatrical and scholarly circles. It will also be seized upon with differing levels of approval by actors and actresses in Britain.

Leading actresses may be furious they are being deprived of one of Shakespeare's greatest roles, while a number of actors will see Mr Rylance's initiative as a sign that attitudes to gender on the stage may be undergoing a significant change.

The Royal Shakespeare Company actor Antony Sher, 49, says he is also keen to play Cleopatra, but was told by RSC artistic director Adrian Noble



Mark Rylance as Henry V this summer. Geraint Lewis

that he would be lynched by a dozen leading actresses if he was allowed to do so. "Cleopatra used to be played by a chap," said Mr Sher, "and it is a fantastic role."

Mr Rylance, who is not officially announcing the Globe 1999 season until February when the box office opens, refused to comment. But a close associate said: "Mark will certainly be dressed up as a woman and the costume will be authentic, made by hand. It's a part he has always wanted to play. But it will be difficult to find the right Antony. He is going to

have to be the right kind of macho. They are such a passionate couple."

"But Mark has a sensitivity about him that will help, and a voice that is not very low."

A spokeswoman for the Globe said: "It is part of the policy of the Globe that we explore original playing practices."

However, while it is often cited that males played females on the stage in Shakespeare's time, they were boys, not men - as in the Globe's *Henry V* this summer. And those were not large roles. To have a 37-year-old man play Cleopatra is a

major theatrical departure. There have been some rare occasions in the 20th century of men playing women in Shakespeare. The company Cheek by Jowl put on an all-male *As You Like It* three years ago, with Adrian Lester playing Rosalind. There was also an all-male *As You Like It* at the National Theatre in the late Sixties when Laurence Olivier was director.

But actresses often resent the parts being taken from them. Dame Maggie Smith once said the all-male production was one of the reasons she left the National Theatre. "I had been promised Rosalind," she said. "I hung on there to play it. Then they gave it to a man! So I took the hint and left."

Mr Rylance, who is a cult figure among theatregoers, is likely to draw record audiences to Shakespeare's Globe next summer.

No one has yet been cast to play his Antony. Whoever he is, it will be a performance to remember. A Globe source said that despite the unusual casting, the production will be "extremely passionate".

MIS-LEADING LADIES AND GENTLEMEN



Judith Anderson
A piece of cross-dressing too far. The Hollywood actress stretched audience tolerance beyond the limit when she played Hamlet on stage in 1971 at the age of 73. In New York she was booed off.



Sarah Bernhardt
Played Hamlet in West End in 1899 at the age of 55. Audiences sat in silence but critic Max Beerbohm said he refrained from laughing only out of concern for "the national reputation for good manners".



Kathryn Hunter
Played *King Lear* to acclaim last year, saying it was a fantasy fulfilled. "I've had this wish since I was 13 to play Lear... when I heard my teacher read the play, she had this vast bosom heaving with emotion."



Adrian Lester
The 6ft actor, now in the film *Primary Colors*, played Rosalind in Cheek by Jowl's all-male *As You Like It* in 1995. The late critic Jack Tinker enthused about his transformation into "a capricious schoolgirl".



Fiona Shaw
Award-winning Irish-born actress played Richard II with great success at the National in 1995, but said she would never play character of opposite sex where a passionate relationship was involved.



Frances de la Tour
Soon to play Cleopatra, she took on Hamlet in 1979, but not to explore her male side. "I just wanted to play the universal person, a young, vulnerable, screwed-up rebel without a cause."

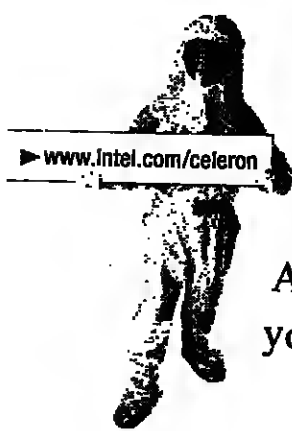


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صكرا من الاصل

Pan Am two handed over 'in fortnight'

BY RUPERT CORNWELL
AND KIM SENGUPTA

BRITAIN, THE US and relatives of the victims of the Lockerbie bombing were last night clinging to hopes that the two Libyan suspects could yet be handed over before the 10th anniversary of the bombing in a fortnight's time, despite this weekend's inconclusive trip to Libya by Kofi Annan, the United Nations Secretary-General.

Speaking after a 90-minute meeting with Libyan leader Muammar Gaddafi in the Libyan desert near Sirte, Mr Annan praised the Libyans as "serious" in wanting to settle the affair, and predicted they might do so "in the not too distant future".

Robin Cook, the Foreign Secretary, took a similar line after hearing a report of the meeting from Mr Annan, proclaiming he felt "qualified optimism" about the outcome of the weekend mission.

Tripoli also indicated that a deal was possible. The Libyan Foreign Minister, Omar al-Muntasser, said following talks with Mr Annan: "I am sure that the efforts of the Secretary-General will show positive results very soon."

Even so, the failure finally to secure the handover of Abdel Basset Megrahi and Lamun Khalifa Fhimah, the two Libyan intelligence operatives accused of planting the bomb aboard Pan Am Flight 103, has been a disappointment - especially for Mr Annan who went to Libya only after an assurance he would leave with a cast iron agreement the two men would be surrendered to face justice in a court in The Hague.



Abdel Basset Megrahi (left) and Lamun Khalifa Fhimah, accused of planting the bomb on Pan Am Flight 103

Dr Jim Swire, spokesman for the British families who lost relatives at Lockerbie, said he was delighted Mr Annan and Colonel Gaddafi had met, adding that, some of the Libyan complaints over the issue were justified. He continued: "The main thing is that the two men did meet because Gaddafi is busy saying he fears a trick and that he also feels that his country has been left out of negotiations about the trial, which is true, they have. What he needs, I think, is reassurance that this really is an offer of a fair trial and I can't think of anyone better than Kofi Annan to give that reassurance."

Once again, Colonel Gaddafi's mind has proved unreadable, despite Tripoli's agreement in principle to last summer's Anglo-American offer of a trial in a third country under Scottish law, and with Scottish judges.

The one ostensible sticking point now is Britain's insistence that if convicted, the suspects should serve their sentences in a Scottish jail. Despite Britain's promise of unlimited consular access for them, Libya continues to object to this condition. Yesterday Mr Cook once again insisted there could be no compromise on the place of imprisonment.

Mr Cook said: "The crime was committed in Scotland, logically the place they should serve their sentence is Scotland. We have no objection to the United Nations or Libya sending any number of observers to make sure that the standards are humane and people are properly looked after."

The Foreign Secretary also said he hoped the trial, at a specially built courtroom, could begin on 21 December, the 10th anniversary of the bombing. The matter could be re-



Kofi Annan, the UN Secretary-General (left), and Muammar Gaddafi meeting in the Libyan desert

solved by next Sunday, after this week's meeting of Libya's General People's Congress, or parliament. According to UN sources, Mr Montasser promised Mr Annan he would ask the Congress to approve the deal during its five-day session which starts tomorrow. Dr Swire said he was still hopeful of a solution "within weeks". Despite the setback, London

and Washington are still convinced Tripoli wants to clinch a deal, and thus end the sanctions which have largely isolated Col Gaddafi's country. Optimists believe that the latest delay is merely to save the Libyan leader from the perceived humiliation of a direct personal climbdown. In fact the People's Congress always decides in accordance with his wishes.

After his face-to-face talks with Col Gaddafi, Mr Annan was typically unflappable. "I think it was a positive development," he said of the meeting. "But in all these things you have to wait for others to do what they have to do and for you to have something concrete before you can claim victory."

In Washington, the State Department spokesman, James

Foley, said the United States was "disappointed" that Libya had not complied with UN Security Council resolutions. He said: "Compliance means the turnover of the two suspects for trial. It's been almost ten years since the Pan Am 103 tragedy. This has gone on too long." could begin on 21 December, the 10th anniversary of the bombing.

Rugby deals worry OFT

BY MICHAEL HARRISON

THE OFFICE of Fair Trading is considering launching an investigation into rugby amid concern over the way rights to televise the game and sell tickets are handled.

The investigation is likely to encompass both rugby union and rugby league, which have been heavily commercialised over the last few years following the success of World Cup tournaments and the growth in pay television coverage.

The director general of Fair Trading, John Bridgeman, himself a keen rugby union fan, is known to be concerned at the lack of competition in the auctioning of television rights.

There is also concern over the granting of exclusive rights to sports agents to sell tickets and hospitality packages to international matches and the way merchandise is sold within rugby grounds.

Rupert Murdoch's BSkyB has a stranglehold on the televising of both sports. BSkyB signed an exclusive deal worth £87.5m with the Rugby Football Union in 1996 allowing it to screen all England's home matches at Twickenham, with the exception of World Cup games, for the next five years.

Rugby league's Superleague meanwhile agreed an exclusive £89m, five-year deal with BSkyB in 1995. BSkyB subsequently paid a further £59m to extend the agreement until 2002. There are 12 teams in the Superleague but this will rise to 14 next season.

The OFT is bringing a case through the Restrictive Practices Court against the Football League over its granting of exclusive rights to Rupert Murdoch's BSkyB to televise Premier League matches. Similar action may be taken in respect of rugby.

Mr Murdoch also has the exclusive rights to televise all English club rugby matches following a £7.5m deal signed in 1995.

The agreement with the RFU over Twickenham internationals almost led to England being thrown out of the Five Nations championship by the other countries involved - Scotland, Wales, Ireland and France.

The dispute was settled after England agreed to give the other nations a share of its income from BSkyB.

Earlier this year, the Rugby Football League was ordered by the Restrictive Practices Court to notify the OFT in advance of any exclusive agreements it makes in respect of ticket sales and hotel and travel arrangements for matches.

Government ditches care in the community

THE GOVERNMENT reverses its policy of care in the community tomorrow, taking thousands of mentally ill people off the streets and forcing them to comply with treatment.

Frank Dobson, the Health Secretary, will publish the long-awaited White Paper on mental health designed to improve supervision of those with mental health problems and make 24-hour care available. It is believed he will announce funding of £185m from social services and £470m from

BY GLENDA COOPER
Social Affairs Correspondent

the health service to cover the plans. Key reforms include more "acute" and "secure" beds in psychiatric hospitals, more trained staff and the introduction of a 24-hour helpline.

One of the more controversial plans gives doctors the power to force patients who refuse to comply with treatment to be re-admitted to hospital. The Government also wants to change legislation so that it

covers those with untreatable personality disorders. The Mental Health Act only covers those with "treatable" conditions. This would cover people like Michael Stone, convicted of the murders of Lin and Megan Russell, who suffered from a psychopathic disorder.

In July when Mr Dobson announced reform of the Act, he promised a "root and branch" review because the Act was "based on the needs and therapies of a bygone age". While pledging this did not mean a re-

turn to locking people up in long-stay institutions, he added that too many people had been left "wandering the streets".

The proposals signal an end to the care in the community policy, which has been criticised after a succession of high-profile inquiries, such as into the killing of Jonathan Zito by Christopher Clunis, a paranoid schizophrenic, at a London Underground station in 1992.

Since 1980, 50,000 psychiatric beds have been closed, leaving many to live in hostels

or flats with little back-up support or care. The mental health charity Sane estimates a homicide is committed by a mentally ill person every week. About 1,000 mentally ill people commit suicides every year.

Marjorie Wallace, the chief executive of Sane, said yesterday health officials had been left with "blood on their hands" by continuing with the policy of community care and closing psychiatric hospitals. "Now we will have a chance to reverse this policy which has led to hun-

dreds of unnecessary deaths and incalculable suffering for patients, their families and the public. Accepting that so many people have been failed is a major victory," Ms Wallace said.

But a spokeswoman for the charity Mind said that while it welcomed more 24-hour care, it disputed that care in the community had failed. "Community care has been woefully underfunded and there have been some dramatic failings but there have been quality and properly funded services and

they have worked," she said. The charity also disagreed with compulsory treatment. "It is people at ground level who will have to deal with this - psychiatric nurses and social workers and they have already said it won't work."

The National Schizophrenia Fellowship said the money earmarked for reforms was "only a third" of what was needed.

A spokesman for the Department of Health said that he could not comment until the paper was published.

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IN BRIEF

Holiday blast victims named

TWO BRITISH men injured seriously in a gas explosion in a Tenerife holiday apartment on Saturday were named yesterday as Melbourne David Thomas, 51, and Eric Stevens, 41, both from the Manchester area. They both suffered burns to 80 to 90 per cent of their bodies.

Firms face skills shortage

THE SHORTAGE of skilled staff is getting worse, according to a survey of 373 organisations by the recruitment firm Reed Personnel Services. Among the skilled workers in demand are computer experts, finance professionals, accountants and engineers.

Man dies after parachute fails

A MAN died when his parachute failed to open properly during a jump and he crashed into a field yesterday. The unnamed 29-year-old from the West Midlands, plunged to the ground during the jump with the North London Parachute Club in March, Cambridgeshire.

Ballooning bid across the Andes

POLAR EXPLORER David Hempleman-Adams hopes for lift-off today in his delayed pioneer bid to cross the Andes in a balloon. Mr Hempleman-Adams, 42, from near Bath, has been grounded since Wednesday. He plans two 120-mile flights, 20-30,00 ft above the South American range.

Stewth mate, it's cockney

AUSTRALIANS ARE borrowing cockney rhyming slang. Visiting Britons can expect to hear Sydney referred to as "steak and kidney", while the missus (wife) becomes "cheese and kisses". The phrases are detailed in the new Australian Phrasebook, from Lonely Planet.

Two share lottery jackpot

TWO TICKET holders won £3,627,226 each after sharing Saturday's £7.2m National Lottery jackpot. The winning numbers were 4, 7, 23, 26, 27, and 35. The bonus number was 28.

JOHN WALSH



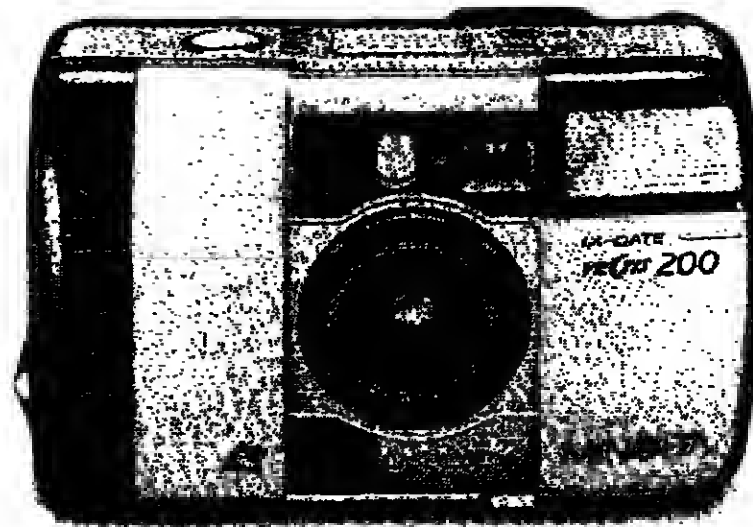
There is only one thing worse than being shafted by the media; being completely ignored by it

IN THE MONDAY REVIEW PAGE 5



MINOLTA

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Women shun elite police jobs

WOMEN POLICE officers are making more crime-beating arrests than their male counterparts but are not joining elite squads, according to new research.

To the consternation of senior officers, policewomen are not applying for posts in firearms groups, marine units and fast vehicle response teams because they are repelled by their "entrenched culture of masculinity".

The findings come in the biggest-ever study of the role of women in British policing, which will force chief constables into a major re-think of their equal opportunities policies.

The research reveals that women officers working in a high-crime area of Newcastle upon Tyne arrested on average more dangerous house-breakers, car thieves and joy-riders than male officers.

The study's author, Louise Westmarland, a lecturer in criminology at the University of Teesside, said her findings dispelled the myth that women were allocated to quiet beats.

She said: "The men were getting more arrests for 'non-crimes' like not having a tax-disc but the women were getting more of what are known in police circles as a 'good pinch', the aggravated burglars and car thieves."

Dr Westmarland's three-year publicly-funded study involved a year spent shadowing officers in the Northumbria and Durham forces.

She found that the deep-rooted sexism for which the police service has long been criticised, had been replaced by more subtle limitations on the career-paths of women.

Because of a scarcity of resources and the use of computers in allocating officers to jobs, uniformed women officers are likely to be given the same patrolling tasks as men.

But the opportunities for promotion are still marked out in terms of gender. While women officers were happy to further their careers by applying for jobs in the Child and Family Protection unit, or more office-based sections like the fraud squad or the training de-

BY IAN BURRELL
Home Affairs Correspondent

partment, the "guns, cars and horses" were still seen as a male domain, said Dr Westmarland.

"It's not the old story of a sexist conspiracy," she said. "In actual fact the reverse is true. The managers would love to see more women in these posts but the current culture in these units is attractive to men and unattractive to women."

She explained that the modern police ethos of "service" instead of "force" had ushered in a feminisation of the police with more emphasis on community care and "less on breaking down doors".

The process had driven some male officers to seek out masculine havens where they could practise traditional male pursuits of shooting, driving and chasing.

She said: "These men don't have to cope with the force being more feminized. They can continue to exist in an exclusively male enclave."

Dr Westmarland, whose research will be published as a book in the new year, said only radical measures to break-up this entrenched culture would encourage women into the specialist branches of work.

Her report states that females comprised only 3% of Northumbria's specialist units although they made up 14% of the force. Only one of the 12 firearms officers was a woman and only three of the 160 traffic officers.

The only armed female officer was described by colleagues as "just like one of the lads". Others were concerned by the idea of a female boss. One constable said: "What you don't need is someone who is supposed to be in charge of a firearms incident, way out of her depth, not knowing what to do, her voice going higher and higher, about to burst into tears - it's putting everyone at risk."

Traffic officers recounted a story of a female officer - "eight and a half stone in her nylons" - who handcuffed an 18-stone miner, only to be picked up and carried off.

Anonymous telephone calls were made to her superiors claiming that she was having affairs with her colleagues. Social services were even informed that Insp Fleming was neglecting her two children.



Inspector Cydema Fleming was subjected to a 'vendetta' by male colleagues and has won her industrial tribunal case

Page One

'They tried to ruin my reputation'

CYDEMA FLEMING took only

eight years to rise through the ranks from constable to inspector due to what her promotion board described as her "exceptional level of performance".

But when she was placed in charge of Gairisborough police station she found herself the subject of deep resentment.

Anonymous telephone calls were made to her superiors claiming that she was having affairs with her colleagues. Social services were even informed that Insp Fleming was neglecting her two children.

She tried to use Lincolnshire police's grievance procedure to register her distress at what she later described as "dripping poison" but was rebuffed.

BY IAN BURRELL

Insp Fleming, 40, lodged a claim for sex discrimination and placed a voice-activated tape recorder in her locker room to gather evidence of the harassment. But when the recorder was discovered, her superiors decided that she was not the victim but the culprit.

She was suspended on the grounds of "oppressive behaviour". Insp Fleming was also accused of custody offenses, making false entries in her pocket books and even breaking into

her husband's flat. In February this year, an industrial tribunal ruled that she had been subjected to a vendetta by male colleagues.

She has been paid compensation and offered reinstatement but has taken up a post with Humberside police, which was called in to conduct a Police Complaints Authority investigation into her treatment and promptly offered her a job.

The difficulties faced by Insp Fleming are illustrative of recent warnings in *Policing Today* magazine by senior women officers who have spoken out against the discrimination suffered by females who try to rise through the ranks.

Elizabeth Neville, Chief Constable of Wiltshire, said there remained a widespread fear that pregnancy would undermine a woman's promotion chances.

Acting Assistant Commissioner Judy Davison, of the City of London Police, was especially concerned by the lack of women working in the traffic or armed response sections. "Family responsibilities, encouragement, personal choice and childcare may all be inhibiting factors," she said.

An official accident report made 93 recommendations, including the provision within five years across the network of automatic train protection (ATP), an in-cab commuter system which automatically prevents trains going through danger signals. But plans to introduce ATP were abandoned when it was deemed too expensive.

There is growing concern over the levels of vandalism on the railway. A fortnight ago, a Euston to Inverness sleeper train hit two stolen vans on the track near Edinburgh.

Fears grow on railway safety

BY PHILIP THORNTON
Transport Correspondent

A POWERFUL cross-party committee of MPs will this week raise serious concerns over the level of safety on Britain's railways. The report by the Commons Select Committee on Environment, Transport and the Regions comes as concern mounts over safety and vandalism of the track network.

The committee took evidence over the summer from Railtrack and the companies that carry out maintenance work, as well as the British Transport Police, the Health and Safety Executive and experts on risk management.

The report will be published on Wednesday, the day before Her Majesty's Inspectorate of Railways produces its annual report for the period that includes the Southall rail crash.

The HMRI report will show that the number of serious accidents is still down but that the number of people killed rose because of Southall, in which seven people died and 147 were injured. Great Western Trains and the train driver have been charged with manslaughter.

The industry is also preparing for the 10th anniversary on Saturday of the Clapham train crash, in which 35 people died. Faulty signalling was blamed for the accident in which a commuter train ran into the back of another train.

An official accident report made 93 recommendations, including the provision within five years across the network of automatic train protection (ATP), an in-cab commuter system which automatically prevents trains going through danger signals. But plans to introduce ATP were abandoned when it was deemed too expensive.

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Sharp rise in BSE cases on the Continent

THE "unscientific and unnecessary" slaughter of thousands of cattle belonging to herds on mainland Europe where cases of BSE occur will cost the European Commission millions of pounds this year, new figures reveal.

To attempt to allay consumer fears, entire herds, sometimes containing 200 cows, are slaughtered when a single case of "mad cow disease" is found. A 59-page report by the EC on BSE in Europe states that this will cost more than £100m this year, and probably the same in 1999.

So far this year, there has been a sharp rise in the number of cases of the disease, with 192 recorded in continental countries, including Switzerland and even Liechtenstein. The average herd size in the different countries means that the 177 BSE cases recorded in continental European Union countries have led to the slaughter of more than 9,000 cows.

But such measures are condemned by the EU. "It is not commission policy. Scientifically, there's no justification for doing it," said the spokesman for Franz Fischler, the agriculture commissioner. "We have always argued that it is not necessary. A 'cohort' approach, tracking down cows of the same age from the same farm, which logically would

BY CHARLES ARTHUR
Technology Editor

BSE CASES

Cases this year (estimated number of cattle killed):

UK	2,041
Portugal	80 (2,400)
Irish Republic	73 (5,475)
France	15 (975)
Switzerland	13 (n/a)
Belgium	7 (245)
Netherlands	2 (200)
Liechtenstein	2 (n/a)

have eaten the same infected meat and bone-meal, is far better. The animals in a single herd are of mixed age. They won't all necessarily be infected."

In the United Kingdom, the Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food (MAFF) has only ever required the slaughter of affected cattle, rather than herds or cohorts. Since BSE became notifiable in 1987, there has been a total of 172,000 cases in 34,000 different herds - an average of roughly five cattle per herd.

When the herds are killed after a case of BSE is found, the farmer receives the full market price for all the animals - half paid from national funds, and half from the EU.

Despite the measures, there are fears on the Continent that a BSE epidemic could be about to start. Portugal, which has

had 80 cases this year, has been banned from exporting its beef, putting it in the same position as Britain was until last month. The EU has also notified 12 countries - France, Belgium, Luxembourg, the Netherlands, Germany, Spain, Sweden, Finland, Italy, Portugal, Denmark and Greece - that they are breaching rules set up to avoid another epidemic.

Though the UK is still the country worst affected by the disease, with 2,041 cases this year, it does not slaughter herds when cases are found. The present UK total of cases is the lowest since 1988, two years after BSE was recognised as a new disease.



Lincoln's Christmas market in full swing yesterday. A quarter of a million visitors attended the four-day event

Steve Hill

'Ban antibiotics in all farming'

NON-MEDICAL use of antibiotics should be banned and vets should receive less income from selling drugs to farmers, says the Soil Association in a new report today.

In an attack on the growing use of the drugs in agriculture, it points out that many cattle are fed antibiotics throughout their lives, and that use of tetracycline and penicillin, two of the best-known ones, has increased by 1,500 per cent and 600 per cent in the past 30 years, even though it was supposed to fall.

"Pigs, poultry and even cattle are getting antibiotics on a daily basis, both to make them grow faster and in an attempt to control the diseases caused by intensive livestock production," said Richard

BY CHARLES ARTHUR

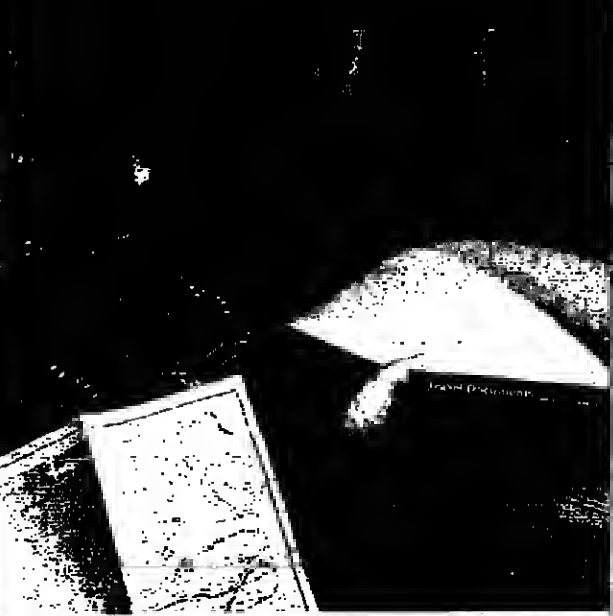
Young, the association's policy co-ordinator. "Total use in farming is actually higher than in human medicine."

Of the 1,225 tons of antibiotics used annually in the UK, only 40 per cent goes to humans. About a third goes to farm animals and a quarter on pets and horses. The result, says the report, is that "the use of antibiotics on farms is contributing to the problem of antibiotic resistance".

If bacteria acquire resistance to antibiotics then they would be useless to combat diseases in humans.

"Use and Misuse of Antibiotics in UK Agriculture", Soil Association, Bristol House, 40-56 Victoria St, Bristol BS1 6BY.

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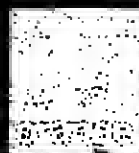
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8/POLITICS

Tories face shaming on tobacco links

HEALTH MINISTERS are prepared to use a Labour Party dossier on the Tories' links with the tobacco industry to back its plans this week for a ban on tobacco advertising.

Senior Whitehall sources have told *The Independent* that they will attack prominent Conservatives for their close links with tobacco companies if the Tories try to oppose the proposals which Frank Dobson, the Secretary of State for Health, will outline in a White Paper.

BY COLIN BROWN
Chief Political Correspondent

The Government is implementing an EU directive banning tobacco advertising on poster sites by 2000, a year ahead of the maximum allowed by the European agreement. But it is expected that some Tory MPs will oppose Britain replacing the voluntary code with a compulsory ban.

Although ministers are vulnerable over allowing sponsor-

ship of Formula One racing by tobacco companies to continue until 2006, the Government is prepared to use the Labour dossier which names Kenneth Clarke, the former Chancellor, as the most prominent Tory link with the tobacco industry.

Mr Clarke, a former health secretary, is the deputy chairman of British American Tobacco, a post thought to pay at least £75,000 a year.

The leading spokesman for

the Tobacco Manufacturers Association is John Carlisle, the former outspoken right-wing Tory MP.

The dossier claims that the Tories received donations totalling £100,000 before the 1992 general election from Rothmans. More discreet payments have been made including £4,000 towards the right wing think-tank, the Centre for Policy Studies, by BAT Industries.

Baroness Thatcher is also a consultant to Philip Morris,

manufacturer of Marlboro. Ian Greer Associates, the now defunct lobbying company which crashed after being implicated in the allegations of Tory cash-for-questions, also lobbied for Skoal Bandits before they were banned in this country.

The Conservatives were also handed key advertising posters sites reserved for the tobacco industry before the 1992 election campaign.

The Tories have said they will respond to curbs on ad-

vertising on their merits, but the party's former spokesman on health, John Maples, said an EU-wide ban on all forms of tobacco advertising was "an unnecessary and potentially unworkable piece of legislation".

Mr Dobson and Tessa Jowell, the Public Health minister, will also accuse the tobacco industry of targeting young people with their campaigns.

They will propose new curbs on using fashion brand names to advertise cigarettes, and

propose a wide range of measures to help smokers give up the habit. Family doctors will be encouraged to run clinics to help smokers stop, by issuing nicotine patches and chewing gum at cut-price rates, instead of the across-the-counter price of £5 a pack.

The measures will be aimed particularly at those on low incomes, who have proved resistant to health warnings about the dangers of smoking.

Ministers feared making

nicotine gum and patches generally available on prescription would be too expensive.

Curbs on smoking in the workplace will be included in the package. Employees will be told they could be covered by the health and safety at work acts to stop smoking in small offices.

There will be no ban on smoking in pubs and restaurants, but owners will be urged to provide more smoke-free zones.

New Labour pressure group modernises itself out of business

BY JOHN RENTOUL

THE PRESSURE group which paved the way for the creation of New Labour has been wound up because it was too successful. Following the election of the group's most famous member, Tony Blair, as Prime Minister last year, the Labour Co-ordinating Committee has decided to declare victory in its 20-year battle to modernise the party.

Meeting in a smoke-free room above a pub in Pimlico on Saturday, the remaining active members of the LCC decided to close the group down. "We have achieved most of the tasks we set for ourselves," declared the chair, Ben Lucas. It was set up in 1978 to bring together all the left-wing forces in the party and promote Tony Benn's leadership ambitions. But its priority quickly became the fight against Trotskyist infiltrators and, by the time Mr Blair was persuaded to join in 1982, it was organising the "soft left" - a sort of Third Way between hardline socialists and SDP defectors.

After the 1983 election, which brought Mr Blair into parliament, his wife, Cherie Booth, served for three years on the LCC executive as the organisation played an important role supporting Neil Kinnock's drive for party reform. Under John Smith it campaigned to end the trade union



Tony Blair (left), then trade spokesman, with protesting packers in 1983

block vote and bring in the one-member, one-vote system for choosing MPs.

But now it has fulfilled most of its aims and most of its leading members are in positions of power in government and industry and as lobbyists. The roll-call of apologies for absence at Saturday's meeting was like an archaeological dig through the layers of left-wing Labour factions over the past two decades: Barbara Castle, sacked from Jim Callaghan's Cabinet in 1976; Michael Meacher, a Bennite minister in

the last Labour government and now Environment minister; Peter Hain, then a radical Bennite activist, now a Welsh Office minister. Even Ms Booth, in a discreet assertion of her right to a political mind of her own, sent word that she was sorry she could not be there.

Mr Lucas, now director of the New Labour lobbying company Lucas Lawson Mendelsohn, listed the group's achievements: "The LCC has run its course. Tony Blair is the most overtly modernising leader Labour has ever had and his government has set about the most radical constitutional change for a century. Labour is now more representative of its members and voters. Trotskyism has been reduced to a tiny and ineffective rump within the party."

There were some doubts expressed. Paul Thompson, a professor at Edinburgh University and editor of the LCC journal *Renewal*, which is continuing, said the success of hard-left candidates in this year's ballot of party members was "really depressing". The LCC had paid the price for failing to oppose the party machine's "centralising tendencies". The fight within the Labour Party against the hard left would have to be carried on by new organisations, he said.



Harriet Harman (left), who was on the Labour Co-ordinating Committee, with striking nurses in London in 1988

Fury at Straw's lorry fines

BY MICHAEL CLARKE

ROAD HAULIERS yesterday hit back at Jack Straw, the Home Secretary, over plans to fine the drivers of lorries used by illegal immigrants.

Mr Straw said yesterday that drivers could virtually stop the stowaways overnight if they carried out simple checks on their trucks.

And he said he would go ahead with plans to fine truckers £2,000 if illegal immigrants are found on their vehicles.

The Road Haulage Association, representing lorry firms, condemned the plans as "outrageous and unworkable".

"You don't need to be a genius to work out that if hauliers are about to be fined every time they voluntarily approach the authorities and disclose the presence of illegal immigrants, they will simply resort to releasing the illegal immigrants without informing the police," a spokesman said.

He said the association still hoped to change ministers' minds. The level of fines suggested - £2,000 per illegal immigrant - could put some smaller truck firms out of business, he added.

But Mr Straw, writing in the *News of the World*, said almost 5,000 people were found hidden in freight vehicles in the first eight months of this year.

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MPs prepare for fight over trade union rights

A SHOT will be fired across Peter Mandelson's bows this week by Labour MPs who fear the Secretary of State for Trade and Industry may further weaken the Government's commitment to giving trade unions the right to negotiate for their members.

A Cabinet committee is expected this week to agree the final detail of the controversial Fairness at Work Bill included in the Queen's Speech.

Mr Mandelson has gone a long way to meeting the demands of unions against the wishes of employers' organisations, but officers of the backbench trade union committee of Labour MPs who met Mr Mandelson last week are planning to table a Commons motion seeking further concessions.

Unions will be expected to meet a 50 per cent threshold in ballots before demanding recognition by employers and Mr Mandelson has dropped a proposal requiring those taking part in ballots to have been members of unions for at least three months. But the MPs

BY COLIN BROWN

are unhappy that the Central Arbitration Committee will be given wide powers under Mr Mandelson's Bill to assess claims for automatic bargaining rights. They want its terms of reference to be tightly limited by the Bill.

"There is a lot of concern about the flexibility which Mr Mandelson is proposing," said a senior member of the Labour backbench group.

More than 70 MPs attended a meeting of Labour's backbench trade union committee to hear John Monks, the general secretary of the TUC, express his concern at the compromise being worked out by Mr Mandelson over the fair employment legislation.

"John Monks was given a good reception, but Peter Mandelson was not," said one senior Labour backbencher. "There is going to be a row over this."

The rumblings of backbench discontent emerged after Mr Mandelson sought to reassure the MPs that the principles



Mandelson: Compromise

underpinning the White Paper on trade union recognition were being protected. But many MPs emerged from the meeting seeking stronger assurances that the Secretary of State is not ready to bow too much to the bosses.

Gerry Sutcliffe, Labour MP for Bradford South and chairman of the group, said the Commons motion which he will be tabling with senior backbench colleagues would welcome the Fairness at Work legislation but would urge the

Cabinet to adhere to the principles in the White Paper on trade union recognition.

The MPs left the meeting with the firm view that many details of the legislation remain to be settled, and a Cabinet battle could be about to begin. They believe that John Prescott, the Deputy Prime Minister, has been given assurances by Tony Blair that he will be involved in the final decisions, which the MPs regard as another reassurance that past pledges will be kept.

In a separate move, Harriet Harman, the former Social Security secretary, will also urge the Government to help fund more generous provisions for parental leave.

In her first moves since being sacked from the Cabinet, she will table a Commons motion today with Chris Pond, the Labour MP and former director of the Low Pay Unit, welcoming government action but making it clear that they want to see more financial help for parents taking leave to care for their children.

Spectre of Hollywood wives kills custody deal with US

MINISTERS HAVE turned down a deal with the United States government over custody cases because of fears that Hollywood wives would be able to appear on legal aid in British courts.

The minister for the Lord Chancellor's office, Geoff Hoon, was tempted to go along with the deal, because it would have helped dozens of British families in "big-of-love" cases in the US.

The sticking-point was a demand that, in return for making it easier for Britons to seek custody for their children in US

BY COLIN BROWN

courts, US citizens should be entitled to easier access to justice in the British courts, including legal aid.

The Government is limiting its availability but the US request raised the prospect of Hollywood wives with British connections using legal aid to sort out their arguments over divorce in this country.

"He thought long and hard about it before saying no, but in the end he had to turn it down," said a Whitehall source.

The decision to turn down

the US offer will disappoint British families engaged in drawn-out custody battles for their children through the American courts.

They face daunting difficulties in going ahead with legal action in the US courts in the federal system, where state courts have responsibility for family law.

The US government, in private talks with the Lord Chancellor's office, offered to simplify the system by allowing Britons to seek justice through federal courts instead of negotiating through a maze of

lower courts, which can prove expensive.

The cases have included that of Sheehan and Conar Sidwell, who were snatched by their father and taken to America via London and Germany.

Their mother, Kim, tracked them to Orlando and brought them home after a legal battle but was left with a £6,000 bill.

Scrapping routine checks on passports of UK citizens leaving Britain has been blamed for a 58 per cent increase in parental abductions of children from this country to live abroad since 1995.

سكدا من الاصل

New reading plan 'staggeringly good'

NEW WAYS of teaching reading in Scotland are far more effective than those being promoted by the Government in England, a study to be published shortly shows.

The findings are likely to embarrass ministers who plan to release research today proving that their own national literacy strategy is raising standards in reading.

The Scottish study, also funded partly by the Government, suggests that children's progress is much more rapid if different teaching methods than those favoured by ministers are used.

David Blunkett, the Secretary of State for Education, has laid down teaching methods which schools should use in the daily literacy hour introduced in primary schools this term. The methods are not compulsory, but schools will be reprimanded for not using the techniques if their results do not come up to scratch.

But research from St Andrews University reveals that "analytic phonics", the method recommended for the literacy

By JUDITH JUDD
Education Editor

hour, is much less successful in improving reading than "synthetic phonics".

The study, commissioned by Clackmannanshire Council and funded partly by the Scottish Office, involved 300 pupils and 13 classes in eight schools. Researchers Dr Rhona Johnston and Joyce Watson divided them into three groups. The group taught with synthetic phonics rather than methods advocated in the national strategy far outperformed the other groups.

After 16 weeks, children in the former group had reading ages which were, on average, seven months ahead of their chronological ages, while the latter groups had fallen slightly behind their chronological ages. By the end of the first year, the synthetic phonics group was a year ahead of its reading age and 14 months ahead in spelling.

In analytic phonics, children start with a word and break it down into letter sounds - "cat" becomes c-a-t - and they con-



Blunkett: Laid down 'less successful' methods

centrate on the initial letters of words. In synthetic phonics, they move much faster - they are taught the 42 letter sounds at six a day in eight days. At the same time, they are taught to identify letters in the initial, middle and final positions in words and to sound and blend words using magnetic letters.

Dr Johnston said: "Synthetic phonics is staggeringly effective. We have been using the methods of the national litera-

cy strategy in Scotland for three years. Three years ago, we would have said that we were very pleased with it. Now we are saying that you can do much better. The results were best in the most deprived schools and boys benefit just as much as girls."

The project had used the schools' own teachers who received two days' training and had involved no extra resources.

Lorna Spence, head of Deerpark primary school in Clackmannanshire - one of the schools which trialled synthetic phonics - said that the percentage of children reading at or above their chronological ages had risen from under half to more than 93 per cent. The teacher remained the same.

Her school is in a mining village and nearly a third of the children come from households where no one has a job. Forty-five per cent are on free school meals. She said: "The results were quite astounding."

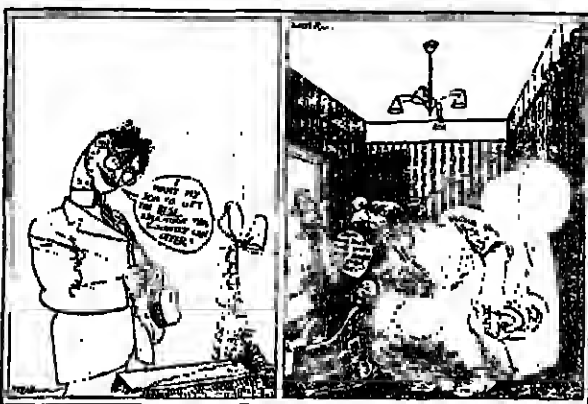
In England, some primary schools use a commercial scheme, Jolly Phonics, which uses similar methods.



The Bo'ness signal box, in West Lothian, won one of six awards for Scotland in the annual railway heritage awards, to be presented by Transport minister, Glenda Jackson, today. It won the award for signalling. Colin McPherson

THE RIGHTS OF EVERY MAN

'The Independent' is publishing daily each of the 30 Articles of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, illustrated by Ralph Steadman, to mark its 50th anniversary on 10 December.



Article 26

(1) Everyone has the right to education. Education shall be free, at least in the elementary and fundamental stages. Elementary education shall be compulsory. Technical and professional education shall be made generally available and higher education shall be equally accessible to all on the basis of merit.

(2) Education shall be directed to the full development of the personality and to the strengthening of respect for human rights and fundamental freedoms. It shall promote understanding, tolerance and friendship among all nations, racial or religious groups, and shall further the activities of the United Nations for the maintenance of peace.

(3) Parents have a prior right to choose the kind of education that shall be given to their children.

Pamphlet edition of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights is published by Waterstone's, price £1. Proceeds to the Medical Foundation for the Care of Victims of Torture.

QUOTE OF THE DAY FROM CORBY

"There are three stages of man; he believes in Santa Claus; he does not believe in Santa Claus; he is Santa Claus."

Bob Phillips

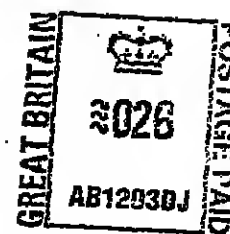


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10/HOME NEWS

Tough new rules to speed mortgages

REFORMS AIMED at taking much of the pain out of house buying are to be unveiled by the Government today.

Mortgage lenders will be expected to deal with 80 per cent of applications for loans within two working days under rules proposed by the housing minister, Hilary Armstrong. Buyers will have much more information at the start of transactions, with the onus of carrying out local searches,

By KIM SENGUPTA

and possibly surveys, being put on vendors before they put properties on the market. This will take care of much of the time-consuming but relatively straightforward work before negotiations take place.

The Government says its plans, put together after a nationwide survey on the angst involved in buying and selling property, will fast-track the

process, make it cheaper, and go some way towards combating the practice of gazumping.

The survey showed there was an average eight-week wait between acceptance of an offer and exchange of contracts. At present, in most cases, an offer is agreed before the time and money-consuming processes of a search, getting title deeds and answering legal questions. Almost 25 per cent of deals start to run into diffi-

culties at this stage. Gazumping, in which the seller pulls out at the last moment in favour of a higher offer, should become less prevalent because of the greater speed in the transaction. It should also help to limit "gazundering", when a buyer suddenly lowers the offer just before contracts are exchanged.

The issue of whether the vendor should include a survey as part of his or her obligations

is expected to generate controversy. A compromise could be a "log-book" carrying a "service history" of the property.

This is the latest move in a government shake-up of the housing market. Last month plans were announced to overhaul the leasehold system, giving almost 2 million people in leasehold properties the right to buy or manage the freehold of their homes.

A spokesman for Bradford

and Bingley, Britain's second-largest building society, pointed out that mortgage lenders have to depend a lot on third parties for verification of earnings before they can offer a loan. He added: "On principle, the quicker we can grant the mortgage the better."

The government measure comes after the Council of Mortgage Lenders (CML) warned that borrowers should take steps to guarantee that

they can pay their mortgages. The CML, which represents Britain's banks and building societies, said the housing market is unlikely to suffer the boom and bust of previous economic slowdowns, but is likely to be dampened next year by the economic uncertainty. The organisation stated, however, that there will be good news for borrowers in the form of lower interest rates.

A CML official said about the

proposed mortgage reforms: "We are all in favour of expediting the time it takes for the mortgages to be arranged, so we welcome any attempts to do so, but there are many variables, such as having to depend on outside parties."

House prices rose by 3.4 per cent this year. They are expected to go up by 3 per cent in 1999 and 2000, roughly in line with inflation forecasts.



Fashion Café owners, (above left) Naomi Campbell, Elle Macpherson and Claudia Schiffer; and Planet Hollywood proprietors Bruce Willis, Arnold Schwarzenegger and Sylvester Stallone

Linley's diner follows trend of celebrity cafés – and fails

THE CHRISTMAS lights are twinkling, the music is defiantly up-beat and there is even a half-price Screaming Orgasm on offer. But it takes more than cheap cocktails to fill a restaurant, as Viscount Linley, the Queen's nephew, has discovered to his cost.

Deals, Lord Linley's chain of upmarket burger bars, is up for sale, the latest celebrity-backed dining venture to collide with harsh economic reality. Other casualties include the Fashion Café, placed in receivership six weeks ago, and Planet Hollywood, which recently plunged into loss.

Industry analysts are not surprised that Deals is being sold. The market is saturated, they say, and fears of recession are keeping diners at home. The restaurants feeling the pinch most keenly are those

By KATHY MARKS

that rely on a glitzy theme, rather than on a reputation for quality food.

Deals was launched amid a blaze of publicity in 1988 by Lord Linley and his cousin, Lord Lichfield, the society photographer. It was to be an "up-market works canteen", combining smart décor and an eclectic menu – a place to cut business deals, Eighties-style.

The founders' connections meant a glamorous cast of customers initially, including Diana, Princess of Wales, and the actor Jason Donovan. But since 1995 the three-outlet London chain has been in the red.

At lunchtime on Friday, the West End branch was virtually empty, save for a few shoppers spooning the froth off their cappuccinos. Two men in pin-

stripes munched morosely on Teriyaki Burgers.

Similarly, poor trade led to the ignominious demise of the Fashion Café, fronted by supermodels Naomi Campbell, Claudia Schiffer and Elle Macpherson, and the travails of Planet Hollywood, the hamburger group owned by Bruce Willis, Sylvester Stallone and Arnold Schwarzenegger.

There are countless other cautionary tales. Opposite Planet Hollywood in Piccadilly Circus, for instance, is the former site of a sandwich bar opened by the pop singer Gary Glitter in 1994. The Glitter Bar closed after just eight months.

Other star-studded ventures have fared better, such as the five smart London restaurants in which actor Michael Caine is a partner, which include Langman's Brasserie and The Can-

teen. Another survivor is Sticky Fingers, owned by the former Rolling Stone Bill Wyman. "The rock theme is great for the one-off visit, but it's the food that brings people back again," said a spokesman.

There is a chill wind, though, blowing through the industry, and last week's news of a clampdown on expense-account lunches made restaurateurs shiver. The Hong Kong and Shanghai Bank has set a £30-a-head limit on corporate entertaining, and other City firms are following suit. Egon Ronay, the veteran restaurant critic, calls this "worrisome".

"It will certainly bite; no question of it," he said. "We will be seeing business people keeping an eye on the right-hand side of the wine list and directing their guests' attention to the set-meal menu."



Viscount Linley has put his chain of fashionable 'works canteens' up for sale as diners cut back on eating out. Rex

Britain told to give up EU rebate

THE GOVERNMENT was under strong pressure last night to back down over Britain's European budget rebate.

European Union foreign ministers meeting in Brussels made it clear that, whatever Tony Blair says, the unique "discount" – whereby Britain gets

more than £2bn a year off its EU bills – is up for renegotiation.

The message was delivered to Robin Cook, the Foreign Secretary, at the start of discussions on "Agenda 2000" – the European Commission's plans to reform the European budget.

In the face of calls from Holland and Italy, in particular, to renegotiate the deal won by Margaret Thatcher in 1985, Mr Cook remained defiant.

"It is not going to change," he insisted in Brussels. "Even after the rebate, Britain's net contribution remains higher per head than other countries

which are in a better position to pay. It is justified, it is right, we are going to keep it."

That view will be vigorously challenged, not least by Germany, which insists that Britain still gets a preferential deal, it too will be demanding a rebate.

which are in a better position to pay. It is justified, it is right, we are going to keep it."

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MILLENNIUM
BUG WATCH

JEWISH SOLDIERS last week arrested Jonathan Tidi, a 41-year-old American immigrant, at his home in the Judean foothills just a couple of miles from the "Green Line" separating the Israeli and Palestinian settlements. According to The Jerusalem Post, the arrest followed rumours that Tidi was hoarding weapons to attack Palestinians, a move that could rapidly escalate into widespread bloodshed.

At his home they found a number of weapons, including an M-16 assault rifle, 6,000 rounds of ammunition, hand grenades and night-vision goggles.

But on his arrest, Tidi – a former US Army Ranger – told police he wanted the weapons not to attack Palestinians, but because he feared "total chaos" in 2000 because the millennium bug would shut down "world computer systems". Also, he thought the whole country would be overrun next year by Christian pilgrims.

Someone found his case persuasive – after two days' questioning Tidi was released, as the police decided he had not stocked the arms to attack Palestinians. Presumably, the Israeli security forces must also be expecting "total chaos".

CHARLES ARTHUR

Garnet
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سكزا من الاصل

Germans step up plans for tax harmony

THE GERMAN drive for tax harmonisation across Europe gathered pace at the weekend amid fears of an outflow of German capital to European tax havens. On Saturday, the Finance Ministry confirmed that under its European presidency - beginning next month - Germany would push for harmonisation across Europe of taxation on interest earnings - including the so-called withholding tax that automatically deducts tax from interest payments.

According to the ministry, Germany wants to introduce a flat charge on interest yields and income from dividends that would be deducted automatically at source.

The German Finance Minister, Oskar Lafontaine, has long been concerned about the flight of jobs and capital to a more favourable tax climate in neighbouring countries. But the goons of Zurich are gleefully rubbing their hands at the prospect of Mr Lafontaine's tax refugees arriving at their door. As the new German government prepares to abolish perks for high earners, and battles against European Union tax havens, Swiss banks are bracing themselves for a new invasion of German marks.

Since the "Red-Green" government came to power in Bonn, Germans' interest in the discreet services of Swiss bankers has soared. The first stage of European monetary union, beginning next month, is expected to swell the ranks of those seeking a secure home for their savings.

The Swiss are only too pleased to help. "Invest your money in a place offering French charm, German efficiency and Swiss discretion," urges an advertisement placed by the Banks Association of Basle in the *Frankfurter Allgemeine* newspaper.

Similar advertisements appear daily, from a myriad of Swiss banks. One, the Cantonal

BY JIMRE KARACS
in Bonn

Bank of Thurgau, is moving nearer its customers by setting up a branch on the German border.

Germans bearing large wads of cash are already a common sight in Switzerland, Liechtenstein and Luxembourg. Since Germany started withholding tax a few years ago on interest earned on deposits, hundreds of millions of German marks have flowed into coffers in neighbouring countries. Some of the biggest German banks are under investigation for helping their



Lafontaine: His tax losses are the Swiss banks' gain

customers to spirit their wealth away into foreign subsidiaries, especially in Luxembourg.

Because of the growing inequity of the tax authorities, much of this flight takes the form of bulging briefcases chauffeur-driven across the border. The narrow main street in Vaduz, the capital of Liechtenstein, is crisscrossed with limousines bearing Frankfurt and Munich number plates. The banks stay open at weekends to cope with the rush.

As Mr Lafontaine seeks to harmonise the taxing habits - or otherwise - of European neighbours, Switzerland and Liechtenstein stand to benefit

most from his grasping hands. They are not EU members, and will therefore remain in splendid isolation from any putative Europe-wide tax regime.

"We have so many German customers," says Patricia Bonaventura of Baumann, a bank based in Basle. "I think more people will come, especially with the launch of the euro."

This being the twilight world of Swiss banking, there is, of course, no way of knowing how many is "so many", and how much there is stashed away in the Alps. Suffice to say that most Swiss institutions demand a minimum deposit of at least 100,000 marks (£37,000).

Nor can anyone tell how many more Germans have been crossing the Swiss border since Mr Lafontaine settled into his throne at the Bonn Finance Ministry.

"We've seen a lot of new business from Germany because of the tax situation there with the new government," Eric Sarasin of Bank Sarasin is reported as saying. "We will see new waves of German private clients coming into Switzerland," he predicted.

Companies, too, are weighing their options. Last year DM40bn of investment flowed out of Germany, and only DM5bn trickled in. According to the German Chamber of Commerce and Industry (DIHT), a survey of 50,000 enterprises last month revealed that many would consider relocating abroad, depending on Mr Lafontaine's tax reforms.

As the Finance Minister's plans slowly take shape - the first batch reached the Bundestag on Friday - business is unenthused. "We cannot agree with this concept," says a spokesman of the DIHT.

In the chamber's view, the new ecology tax, in particular, will only make matters worse for German industry in the face of foreign competition.



Mikhail Borodinsky, 75, trying to find his candidate from the 577 names on the local council voting list in St Petersburg Dmitry Lovetsky

Murder and corruption deter voters in 'Russia's Chicago'

POLICE WERE out in force in St Petersburg yesterday to keep order during local council elections already marred by one of the dirtiest campaigns seen in Russia, and overshadowed by the murder of the democratic politician, Galina Starovoitova.

Voting began sluggishly and television reports said there were more observers than electors in some polling stations. Officials said the vote would be regarded as valid, however low the turnout.

Many citizens were apparently too cowed or too cynical to take part in an election, which Ms Starovoitova's allies said criminals were using to

BY HELEN WOMACK
in Moscow

own were being registered to confuse the voters. In one district, for example, there were three candidates with the name of Sergei Mironov but only one was a genuine local politician.

The victims of the dirty tricks were mainly candidates who advocated a new city charter to make the governor of St Petersburg, Vladimir Yakovlev, more accountable. Various groups backed the charter including Severnaya Stolitsa, or Northern Capital, Ms Starovoitova's party. After she was shot at her home on 20 November, democratic politicians drew up a "civic anti-criminal list" of 70 candidates they said

the public could trust. Communists were offended that they were excluded from the list on "ideological grounds" and said that being left-wing did not make them dishonest.

Despite launching a high-powered investigation, the Russian authorities are no nearer to solving the mystery of Ms Starovoitova's murder. Her aide, Ruslan Linkov, who was shot at the same time, recovered consciousness last week and said from his heavily guarded hospital bed that he was convinced the motive for the killing was political.

The outspoken Ms Starovoitova had many enemies.

One theory is that extreme Russian nationalists may have ordered her assassination to punish her for challenging General Albert Makashov, a hardliner notorious for his anti-Semitic outbursts.

However, given the bitterness in St Petersburg, other people say that clues to her murder should be sought closer to the city that was her home and constituency.

The *Moscow Times* reported that Ms Starovoitova had been in possession of a tape that suggested there might be links between the St Petersburg underworld and cemetery mafia and very senior local officials.

2,000 Palestinian prisoners on hunger strike as Clinton visits

SOME 2,000 Palestinian prisoners, held by Israel, joined a hunger strike yesterday to press for their release amid demonstrations and riots in towns throughout the West Bank over the weekend.

The strike will raise the political temperature in the run-up to President Bill Clinton's visit to Israel and Gaza, the largest Palestinian enclave, this week.

Israeli security officials are pressing Benjamin Netanyahu, the Israeli Prime Minister, to expand the criteria under which prisoners are released, but he has refused, according to the Is-

BY PATRICK COCKBURN
in Jerusalem

raeli press. Palestinians are disappointed that only 100 out of 250 prisoners released under the recent Wye Agreement were political prisoners. The rest were common criminals.

Israel says that the demonstrations, many of which have ended in riots, have been called by the Palestinian leadership. This is correct, but Yasser Arafat, the Palestinian leader, is also trying to pacify Palestinian critics who say that he has betrayed prisoners who once fought for him, by a show

of action on their behalf. The number and type of prisoners to be released was not mentioned in the Wye Agreement.

Israelis and Palestinians are manoeuvring before Mr Clinton's visit on Saturday to Gaza, which both sides see as being close to the recognition of a Palestinian state. Israel is insisting that he fly to Gaza airport by helicopter and not on Air Force One.

Mr Clinton is also to turn on the Christmas lights in Bethlehem. He and most his 1,000-strong delegation will take over the Hilton hotel in Jerusalem. The Palestinian Authority

said yesterday that it had started to collect illegal weapons, which was also agreed at Wye.

In future, illegal possession of a weapon will be punishable by a three-year prison sentence or a \$7,500 (£4,500) fine. Another measure clearing the way for Mr Clinton's visit to Gaza will be a meeting of the Palestinian Central Council on Thursday, which will reaffirm its acceptance of the right of Israel to exist. Israel and the Palestinians have disagreed on exactly how this should be done, Mr Arafat insisting that the Palestinian charter was altered to give it this sense in 1996.

IN BRIEF

Escaped zoo jaguar kills boy, 3

A BOY of three died after being mauled by a jaguar that escaped from its cage in a zoo in France yesterday. The child's father suffered serious head wounds trying to save his son in the attack in Doue-la-Fontaine, 250km (155 miles) south-west of Paris.

Police later killed the 100-kg (220lb) female cat, and captured another that had also escaped. The Zoo Doue was immediately shut down pending an investigation.

Dalai Lama to attend Nobel lunch

TIBET'S EXILED "god-king", the Dalai Lama, will attend a lunch for Nobel prize laureates in Paris tomorrow after initial confusion over whether President Jacques Chirac had invited him, his spokesman said yesterday. The Dalai Lama, who will be in Paris for ceremonies marking the 50th anniversary of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, was reported to have been excluded from the lunch because of concern his presence would upset China.

Ex-coup chief is Caracas favourite

IN PRESIDENTIAL elections yesterday, Venezuelans chose between an ex-army paratrooper who once staged a bloody coup attempt and a Yale-educated ex-governor. The ex-coup leader, Hugo Chavez, was the favourite to win. In an effort to head off his victory, the centre-left Democratic Action Party and the centre-right COPEI party dumped their candidates last week to throw support behind independent candidate Henrique Salas Romer.

Mass detention in India

INDIA DEPLOYED thousands of troops and detained 2,000 people yesterday as the nation observed the sixth anniversary of the demolition of the Babri Masjid Mosque at Ayodhya in the northern Uttar Pradesh state, which was razed by Hindu zealots in 1992. The Prime Minister, Atal Behari Vajpayee, whose Bharatiya Janata Party won power on a campaign to build a temple where the mosque stood, has called for a peaceful solution.

Nigeria edges back to civilian rule

PARTIES DOMINATED by veterans of Nigeria's previous attempts at democracy took an early lead as partial results from local elections began to drift in yesterday.

Saturday's vote for 774 councils marks the first step in the military government's plan to restore civilian rule by May. Results from Kaduna state in the north and Edo in the south gave the People's Democratic Party (PDP) a strong lead over the All People's Party (APP), its closest rivals across Nigeria's 36 states. The Alliance for Democracy (AD) dominated the traditional heartland of opposition to military rule, winning three-quarters of the vote in the four south-western states for which results were available.

The centrist PDP was

BY MATTHEW TOSTEVIN
in Lagos

formed by veteran politicians opposed to the late dictator Sani Abacha, while many former Abacha supporters belong to the APP.

The left-of-centre AD was expected to triumph in the south-west, which has felt cheated since the 1993 presidential elections were annulled as the local tycoon Moshood Abiola was poised to win. He died in detention in July and many of the party's leaders were his backers. The elections were a crucial test for the nine competing parties - and a vote of confidence in General Abdulsalam Abubakar's plan to step down, ending 15 years of military rule. (Reuters)

THOMAS KIELINGER

In the new Europe,
everyone's business will
be everyone else's

IN THE MONDAY REVIEW PAGE 4

LAST CHRISTMAS,
38,800 FAMILIES
LIT UP WHEN THEY SAW
OUR ENGINEERS



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Clinton faces new impeachment risk

BILL CLINTON is once again fighting for his presidency, with a Congressional vote on impeachment expected at the end of this week.

After a month of post-election calm, when the American public appeared to have rescued Mr Clinton by turning its wrath on his Republican adversaries, the mood of Congress appears to have hardened, opening the real prospect of a trial by Senate and the continuation of the President's discomfort well into next year.

Yesterday, the President's supporters and detractors flooded the television talkshows with their views.

The White House appeared to wake up to the risk of impeachment in the middle of last week, when Mr Clinton's lawyers wrote to the chairman of the judiciary committee, Henry Hyde, requesting the

BY MARY DEJEVSKY
in Washington

opportunity to defend the President before the committee. Until then, the President's supporters apparently believed that last month's election results had limited the committee's options to a Congressional vote of censure or to no action at all.

Late on Friday, White House lawyers sent Mr Hyde a further letter, asking for three days to be placed at their disposal so that they could call witnesses of their own. That has yet to be agreed, but the witnesses named so far include professors of law and American and Constitutional history - a combination that suggests White House fears that at least some Republican charges during the past two weeks' hearings have hit home. The Republicans

have fielded experts to testify on definitions of perjury.

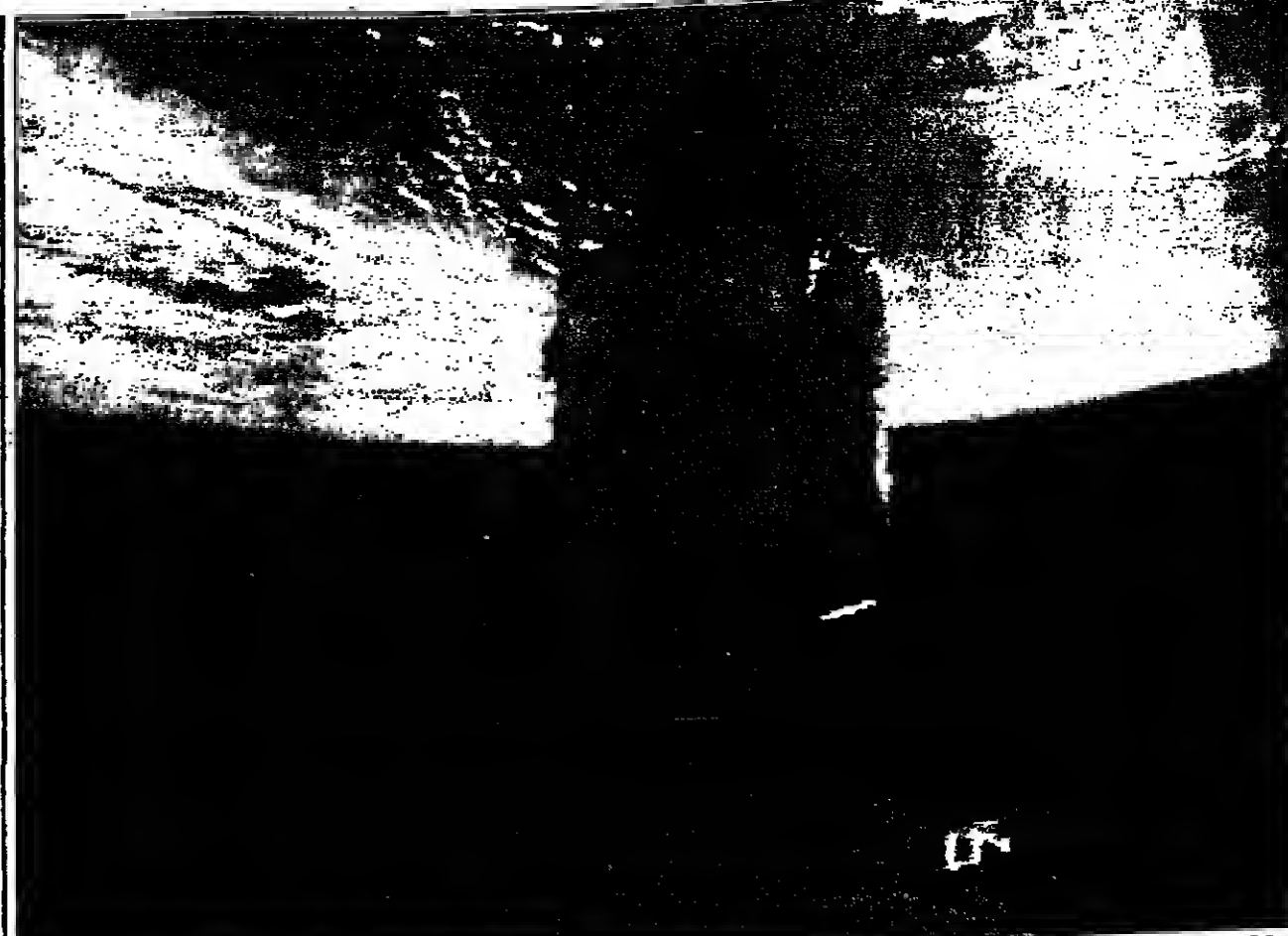
Republicans traced the shift of mood to Mr Clinton's answers to the judiciary committee's 81 questions, which the Senate majority leader, Trent Lott, described as "arrogant and evasive".

Many Democrats blamed a small core of Republican hardliners, led by the Texas conservative and Republican whip, Tom DeLay. This group, they said, would countenance no compromise along the lines of a censure vote or fine and wanted the President punished. While there is little doubt that a Senate "trial" - the final stage of impeachment - would go Mr Clinton's way (because the Republicans do not have sufficient seats to deliver the necessary two-thirds majority), such a trial would be only the second in US history and a con-

siderable blot on Mr Clinton's reputation.

The demeanour of White House officials and leading Democrats suggests genuine worry that the impeachment process could go forward. The vote in the judiciary committee, which has gone against Mr Clinton from the start, is a foregone conclusion unless agreement is reached on a censure motion. The cliff-hanger is the vote in the full House that would follow. Although Republicans have a majority of 12, the result is said to be too close to call.

Michael Huffington, the California millionaire who spent \$28m trying unsuccessfully to capture Dianne Feinstein's Senate seat in 1994 and then contesting the result, has told Esquire magazine he is gay. Mr Huffington and his wife Arianna (née Stassinopoulos) divorced amicably last year.



In the first stage of the International Space Station assembly, the 'Unity' connecting module is positioned by the space shuttle ready to dock with the Russian 'Zarya' power station module. Letters, Review, page 2 AFP

Man convicted of injecting son with HIV

BY DAVID USBORNE
in New York

A FATHER accused of injecting HIV-tainted blood into his son to avoid paying child support has been found guilty of first-degree assault and faces possible life imprisonment. The conviction, however, could be elevated to murder if the boy, now aged seven, dies from the virus.

After just three days of testimony in the trial of Brian Stewart, 32, in St Charles, Missouri, the jury delivered its verdict late on Saturday. Sentencing was set for 8 January.

Stewart, who listened impassively to the verdict, is expected to appeal.

Prosecutors told the court that Stewart, who worked in a hospital as a phlebotomist - someone who draws blood - stole the HIV-infected blood from his workplace and then injected it into his son while the boy was in hospital for treatment for asthma.

The jury heard how Stewart committed the crime during 1992, when the boy was 11 months old, because he did not want to pay for child support. He was already separated from the mother of the boy, identified only as "Jennifer".



Brian Stewart: May face life imprisonment

Jennifer said her son now suffers from full-blown Aids, has lost most of his hearing and has come close to death several times. On the stand last week, she said Stewart had told her that the boy would die. "He said 'You won't need to look me up for child support anyway because your child is not going to live very long'", she testified.

Joe Murphy, lawyer for the defence, said the prosecution had built a case out of circumstantial evidence and had failed to offer proof that his client had injected the child. "A tragedy is not a crime and theories are not facts," he told reporters. "Mom made an allegation and everyone ran with it."

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CITY LIFE
BOMBAY

BOMBAYITES saunter through Delhi with a distinctive smugness, and always complain about the dearth of nightlife. It rather resembles the way New Yorkers feel about buttoned-up Washington DC.

As a Delhi-ite myself, wanting to sample the fabled Bombay cocktail of glitz and sleaze cut with sea breeze, I flew down to the rival Indian metropolis recently with high hopes. It was about time to see for myself that sea-front skyline, known as the Queen's Necklace, and to sniff out what really happens here after dark.

But my first hurdle was simply booking a hotel room. Wedding season means there's hardly a room to spare in Bombay at any price these days. What's more, because the cost of office rents soared to the highest in the world a couple of years ago, businesses began leasing hotel suites as a stop-gap and took much of the best accommodation off the market.

After being turned away over the telephone by a dozen hotels, I pleaded with a tourism official at the airport to help me find somewhere to stay.

"It is difficult, madam," he muttered. "Everything's taken." When I implored him to check beyond the government-approved listings, since I needed only a bed plus a working phone and loo, he took a dog-eared notebook out of his pocket and scrawled down an address. "It's not central Mumbai; it's up at Juhu Beach. But they do have a vacancy," he assured me. "You must pay

cash." What he failed to tell me was that the place was in the process of being torn down.

Four seedy flophouses were being refurbished with money from the Middle East into a single grandiose inn. For now, the reception desk was propped up behind wonky beams and plaster dust flaked everywhere, though it was quite encouraging to see a switchboard operator. (He kept trying to redial Dubai.)

Amazingly, my room was intact up on the second floor, but, with several stairs missing, and dismal lighting, I was forced to share a lift with a swarthy man wearing gloves, who kept cracking his knuckles. He looked like an underworld hitman from central casting. Suddenly fascinated with my room key, I avoided his eyes.

When my flight-attendant friend Tara Kotaria dropped by to check out these Bombay lodgings, she stared goggle-eyed at my gleaming marble bathroom and the multiple mirrors near the beds. It was not what she expected after picking her way through the skeletal building.

Tara was utterly appalled at the lack of security: my door was flimsy plasterboard, and there were forced-entry marks around the simple metal latch - the kind you find on a broom closet.

"There's something fishy here. I won't let you stay alone in this place," she declared. "I'm spending the night too." We cut short our evening with her flight crew and cousins at



A film billboard in Bombay. Studios in 'Bollywood' work around the clock, cranking out about 150 features a year

Rex Features/Frank Monaco

Razzberry Rhinoceros, the oarest disco, and returned to my room in the nameless hotel just after midnight.

Before we blocked the entrance with our luggage for the night, we buzzed room service to send up some mineral water, then attempted to phone home to Delhi. All lines were dead. With visions of being snatch-

ed away by Bombay's notorious gangsters at any moment, we listened for footsteps in the hallway. I swore to Tara that I had witnessed other guests checking in - that we weren't the only ones. She nodded wisely and flicked on her lighter. By examining the flame's reflection in the mirror, Tara was trying to determine

whether this was two-way reflective glass. Some underworld type could be peeking at us while we slept or undressed. "You read too many thrillers," I scoffed, and then we both froze. Loud voices argued next door, and two gunshots rang out. A door slammed.

Before we could react, the door creaked opened again

and we heard feet shuffling. The shouting resumed and two more bullets were fired. We couldn't telephone the police, so we went undercover - and pulled the blankets right over our heads. Again came the shouts.

"Wait a minute," Tara said brightly. "Those are exactly the same words as before. They

must be rehearsing lines." It turns out that, instead of a shoot-out next door, we were overhearing a night shoot.

Bollywood studios in the Hindi film capital crank out more features than Hollywood does - some 150 per year - and must work round the clock fit them all in. Studio space is scarce, so inventive directors

set scenes wherever they can. It was just our luck to check in next to the set location for the third shift, which normally lasts beyond 3am.

Racy Bombay nightlife, anyone? Tara and I managed a brush with film stars and gangsters without even having to leave my hotel room.

JAN MCGIRK

Cantona stars with a talking monkey

A FILM which is opening across France on Wednesday is an early scene in which familiar, straight-backed sure - the hero of the movie walks down a Mexican back-

street. A football rolls away from a group of street urchins, direct to the hero's feet. No male person can resist kicking a ball. Except Eric Cantona.

BY JOHN LICHFIELD
in Paris

He steps over the ball and walks on.

The film, called *Mookie*, is the first in which the former footballer and sardine philosopher has had a starring role since he walked out on Manchester United to start a new career as an actor 18 months ago.

The scene with the ball is the director's way of saying "forget Eric the footballer, welcome Eric the actor".

First reviews of the film in the French press - which generally likes to make fun of Cantona - have been good. "You have to admit, he does it pretty well," Carlos Gomez wrote in *Le Journal du Dimanche*. Cantona also plays a cameo

role, as a French count, in the successful British film *Elizabeth*.

He had a supporting part, while still employed as a footballer, in the French film *Le Bonheur est dans le Pré*.

Mookie is, however, the launch of Cantona's acting career proper. He plays an itinerant French boxer, travelling through small towns in Mexico,

one of whose companions is a talking monkey (the *Mookie* of the title). The director is Hervé Palud, a successful maker of comic and whimsical films, including *Un Indien dans la Ville*. Cantona's role is scarcely demanding. He plays a sportsman from Marseilles with intellectual and philosophical aspirations and a capacity for dry self-parody.

During the making of the film on location in Mexico the boxer who was brought in as Cantona's sparring partner for the fight scenes complained that the ex-footballer was hitting him too hard. To which Cantona replied, in effect: "He hit me first."

Mookie is expected to appear, in dubbed and sub-titled versions, in British cinemas in the middle of next year.



Eric Cantona has graduated from his recent cameo in *Elizabeth* to the starring role in a new French film

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BUSINESS

BRIEFING

MPs to criticise UK car prices

THE CAR INDUSTRY will be heavily criticised in a report by MPs tomorrow claiming that British prices are up to 40 per cent higher than for equivalent models sold on the Continent. The report, by the Commons Trade and Industry Select Committee, is expected to lay much of the blame on the block exemption car makers enjoy, allowing them to control which dealers sell their cars and on what terms.

The Office of Fair Trading is conducting a separate investigation into the car industry, which is focusing on the use of recommended resale prices and extent to which private buyers are subsidising the big fleets who purchase cars at discounts of up to 40 per cent.

No Post Office share sale



PETER MANDELSON, the Trade and Industry Secretary, is expected to announce greater commercial freedom for the Post Office today, but will stop short of a government share sale. The Post Office monopoly over domestic mail costing less than £1 is to be diluted, with a big reduction in that ceiling. It may also lose its lucrative monopoly over direct mail, due to be abolished by 2003 under EU rules.

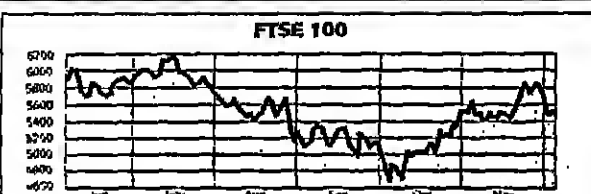
The Post Office is likely to be disappointed, as it had lobbied for partial privatisation in order to be able to borrow more with its borrowings taken off the public sector balance sheet. In the increasingly competitive postal market some of its European rivals have far greater commercial flexibility.

National Grid in Brazil telecom bid

THE NATIONAL GRID is in talks with Sprint, the US telecoms operator, on a joint bid to run a Brazilian telephone network. If successful in the bid, due this week, the \$1bn consortium would compete with the privatised national operator Telebras.

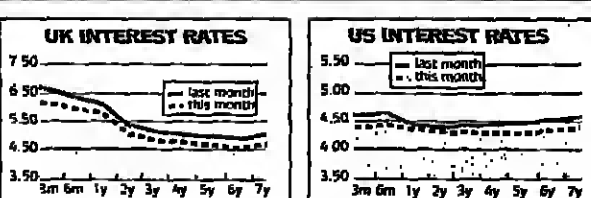
The Grid has chalked up a success with Energis, its UK telecommunications subsidiary, and is keen to expand internationally in both telecommunications and electricity. Brazil's market is particularly attractive, not only because of the country's economic importance, but also because it has only 10 telephone lines per 100 people, compared with about 17 in Argentina and 52 in Britain.

STOCK MARKETS



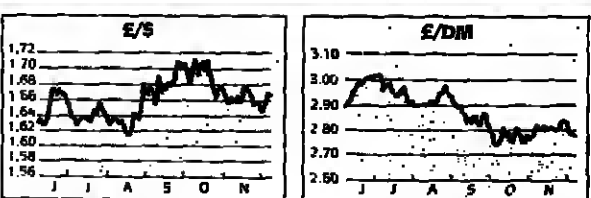
Index	Close	Wk's ch	Wk's ch (%)	52 wk high	52 wk low	Yield (%)
FTSE 100	5581.90	+262.30	+4.69	6183	4599	3.68
FTSE 250	4750.70	+173.30	+3.56	5970	4247	4.86
FTSE 350	2643.70	+119.50	+4.34	2969	2310	3.59
FTSE All Share	2552.43	+113.37	+4.25	2886	2143	3.64
FTSE SmallCap	2018.40	+52.50	+2.54	2793	1834	4.16
FTSE Phedging	1123.10	+20.60	+1.79	1517	1046	0.004
FTSE AIM	801.00	+13.10	+1.61	1146	761	0.002
FTSE ERLC 100	930.48					
Dow Jones	9016.14	+316.94	+3.40	9380.2	7400.3	1.66
Nikkei	14639.97	+429.42	+2.85	17352.95	12787.5	1.001
Hang Seng	9963.14	+778.97	+7.25	11926.2	6544.79	3.14
Dax	4775.23	+346.25	+6.76	6217	3833	1.861

INTEREST RATES



Index	3 month	Yr chg	1 year	Yr chg	10 year	Yr chg	Long bond	Yr chg
UK	6.66	-1.09	6.06	-1.86	4.62	-1.83	4.46	-1.93
US	5.22	-0.72	4.97	-1.06	4.62		5.04	
Japan	0.48	-0.23	0.53	-0.26	1.07	-0.75	1.76	-0.70
Germany	3.41	-0.34	3.27	-0.82	3.93	-1.45	4.79	-1.16

CURRENCIES



Index	Close	Wk's ch	Yr ago
£/\$	1.6690	+1.26c	1.6451
£/DM	2.7910	-3.60p	2.7943
Yen	197.93	-5.78	215.94
£ index	100.30	-1.30	104.50

OTHER INDICATORS

Index	Close	Wk's ch	Yr ago
Brent Oil (\$)	9.50	-1.14	17.82
Gold (\$)	292.45	-3.75	285.95
Silver (\$)	4.78	-0.15	5.30

TOURIST RATES

Index	Close	Wk's ch	Yr ago
Australia (\$)	2.5923		
Austria (schillings)	18.96		
Belgium (francs)	55.70		
Canada (\$)	2.4623		
Cyprus (pounds)	0.7964		
Denmark (krone)	10.31		
Finland (markka)	8.2693		
France (francs)	9.0494		
Germany (marks)	2.7066		
Greece (drachma)	455.18		
Hong Kong (\$)	12.42		
Ireland (pounds)	1.0638		
India (rupees)	63.48		
Israel (shekels)	6.4358		
Italy (lira)	2694		
Japan (yen)	193.13		
Malaysia (ringgits)	6.0670		
Malta (lira)	0.6058		

Rates for indication purposes only
Source: Thomas Cook

ScottishPower set for £4.5bn takeover in US

BY MICHAEL HARRISON

SCOTTISHPOWER is set to unveil a £4.5bn takeover of the US power company PacifiCorp, possibly as early as today.

The deal is the latest in a series of huge transatlantic mergers and will create a multi-utility with a combined value of £12.5bn and interests spanning electricity, water, gas and telecoms.

The two companies were last night finalising the terms of the deal at the London offices of the US investment bank Morgan Stanley Dean Witter, ScottishPower's advisers.

PacifiCorp, which has been codenamed Pegasus during the merger negotiations, is being advised by Salomon Smith Barney. Although the all-share deal will be presented as a merger, it effectively amounts to a takeover. ScottishPower shareholders will emerge with about two-thirds of the enlarged group.

This is the third time Scot-

tishPower has attempted to take over an American electricity company and will represent another first for the acquisitive multi-utility.

PacifiCorp, which has headquarters in Portland, has 1.4 million customers and supplies electricity in six US states, including Oregon.

It also has interests in 10,000 megawatts of generating capacity, mainly coal-fired, and owns a number of coal mines. Its revenues last year reached \$6.3bn.

The US utility has been vulnerable to a takeover since it lost the bid battle for Britain's Energy Group, owner of Eastern Electricity, and parted company with its chief executive, Fred Buckman.

ScottishPower was the first UK electricity company to take over a regional electricity com-

pany, Manweb, and the first to acquire a water company in the shape of Southern Water.

Now it is about to become the first UK utility to conclude a transatlantic merger. PowerGen held lengthy negotiations with Houston Industries about a "merger of equals" but the talks foundered at a late stage over disagreements on valuation and who would run the combined business.

British Energy, the nuclear electricity generator, has also been scouring the US for an electricity company to acquire and National Grid is interested in buying a US electricity transmission and distribution business.

ScottishPower's two previous failed attempts to pull off a deal in the US involved Florida Light and Power and Cinergy, which has a half share in the

UK supplier Midlands Electricity. National Power is buying Midlands' supply arm for £180m.

A spokesman for ScottishPower confirmed yesterday that the two companies were in advanced negotiations. Serious talks began with PacifiCorp about a month ago.

Although there is no duplication of activities, ScottishPower nevertheless expects to achieve considerable efficiency savings at PacifiCorp. One of the server described PacifiCorp as "undermanaged and unloved" and said ScottishPower would treat the acquisition like a US version of its Manweb subsidiary.

However, regulatory clearance for the deal is expected to prove a lengthy process because of the number of states that PacifiCorp operates in.

Bae and Dasa merger due this month

BY MICHAEL HARRISON

BRITISH AEROSPACE and DaimlerChrysler Aerospace are set to announce their £14bn merger before Christmas in a move which will dramatically reshape Europe's defence and aircraft industries.

Industry sources said yesterday that many of the hurdles to a Bae-Dasa merger had been overcome in the last fortnight, making an early announcement more likely.

The combined business would have sales of £15bn and produce everything from fighter aircraft and guided weapons to helicopters and commercial jets. A merger could also accelerate the consolidation of Europe's defence and aerospace industries, while creating a business able to compete on an equal footing with the likes of Lockheed Martin and Boeing of the US.

Bae and Dasa are partners in both the Eurofighter programme and Airbus Industrie and have been talking seriously about a merger for the last six months.

Based on market capitalisations, Bae would probably hold about two-thirds of the combined group. The remaining shares would be held by Dasa's parent company, DaimlerChrysler, itself the result of a merger earlier this year between Daimler Benz and the US carmaker Chrysler.

The enlarged group would be run by Sir Dick Evans and John Weston, chairman and chief executive of Bae, although Manfred Bischoff, Dasa's chairman would have a senior role, possibly as deputy chairman.

Bae already has a 35 per cent stake in Saab, the Swedish military aircraft manufacturer and is planning to take a stake of up to 40 per cent in Casa of Spain when the business is privatised. Casa is another of the Airbus partners.

A merger with Dasa will put increased pressure on the French to press ahead with the privatisation of Aerospatiale, their leading defence and aerospace company and an industrial partner in Airbus.

France has opposed a Bae-Dasa link up, fearful that it will leave Aerospatiale isolated both within Airbus and in the wider consolidation of Europe's defence and aerospace industries.

Last Friday Aerospatiale again threatened to block the transition of Airbus into a single commercial entity unless its shareholder structure was altered. At present the French and Germans each have stakes of 37.9 per cent in Airbus while Bae has 20 per cent and Casa the remaining 42 per cent.

A Bae-Dasa merger would give the enlarged company a combined share of more than 50 per cent. However, industry sources said it would still not enable them to dictate to the French, given the size of Aerospatiale's stake.



With two million new users set to sign up this quarter, mobile phone sales are beating even the most optimistic forecasts

BY PETER THAL LARSEN

TWO MILLION new mobile phone users are set to sign up in the current quarter, making it the industry's most successful ever.

Confidential industry figures for November show that sales are running well ahead of the most optimistic forecasts, even before the crucial Christmas selling season has got into full swing.

The main beneficiaries of the bonanza are the country's two largest operators, Vodafone and Cellnet. Vodafone is understood to have sold

Mobile phone sales soar on pay-as-you-go

225,000 phones in November alone, regaining the lead in the industry from its main rival, Cellnet, which is thought to have attracted 190,000 new users.

Orange and One2One are each estimated to have signed up 100,000 new customers, taking the total num-

ber of phones sold since the end of September to comfortably above the 1 million level. This compares with earlier forecasts that 1.5 million new users would sign up in the final quarter of the year.

The mobile phone boom is the result of the introduction of new pay-as-you-go services

retailers at aggressive low prices. Both Tesco and Asda, through deals with Vodafone and Cellnet respectively, now offer pre-paid phones for as little as £69.99.

Vodafone has also clinched a deal with Shell to sell top-up vouchers for its pre-paid service in the oil giant's petrol stations.

The only drag on sales has been the shortage of available handsets. Cellnet has already admitted that some shops are running out of stock. Industry sources believe Vodafone is suffering from similar problems in certain stores.

Hurricane nations to get debt relief

BY DIANE COYLE
Economics Editor

NICARAGUA AND Honduras are likely to be able to stop paying interest on their debts to rich country governments in the wake of the devastation caused by Hurricane Mitch.

A meeting in Paris on Wednesday is expected to agree to a moratorium on debt servicing, although it will not go as far as campaigners would like and cancel the debts.

The so-called "Paris club" of rich countries will back an agreement by European finance ministers to suspend interest payments by the two afflicted nations.

However, parallel concessions are not expected from a separate meeting of multilateral agencies such as the International Monetary Fund and Inter-American Development Bank in Washington later this week.

Campaigners such as Oxfam and Christian Aid are urging the international community to

Greenalls sells off pubs to Nomura

GREENALLS WILL this week sell off 1,400 pubs to Nomura, the Japanese bank and Britain's biggest pub landlord, writes Diane Coyle.

The £375m deal for the sale of the tenanted or franchised Inn Partnership is due to be announced on Wednesday with Greenalls' results for the year to September.

Inn Partnership had sales of £111m in the year to September 1997, and made operating profits of £38.9m.

The price tag is somewhat below the informal £400m-plus initially sought by Greenalls in October, reflecting concerns about a slowdown in business.

Other potential buyers had included Charterhouse Development Capital and Greene King. But despite the interest, some analysts were concerned that it would not easily find a buyer.

The disposal will nearly wipe out Greenalls' borrowings, allowing it to increase invest-

ment in its De Vere hotels and Village Leisure health and fitness chain. It is the latest in a series of disposals taking the group away from its brewing past towards a broader series of leisure businesses. It is also the latest in a series of consolidation deals in the pubs sector.

Guy Hands, managing director of Nomura's principal finance unit, earlier this year ruled out new investments. But last week, in a move designed to raise the profile of the businesses it now owns, Nomura announced the creation of its Unique Pub Company, a vehicle for earlier acquisitions.

This already has 2,600 tenanted pubs, expected to make an operating profit of more than £20m this year. It is likely to be floated within two years and Giles Thorley, Unique's chief executive, said a valuation of more than £1bn was expected.

It also has some 1,100 pubs outside this new division.

Treger fund seeks Countrywide split

BY DIANE COYLE

THE CORPORATE raiders Julian Treger and Brian Myerson are seeking to force the breakup of Countrywide Assured Group into separate life insurance and financial services businesses after taking a 4.5 per cent stake in the company through their UK active Value Fund.

In a statement issued at the weekend, Mr Treger called on the management of Countrywide Assured, which is valued at £379m, to announce a £50m share buyback, to be funded by borrowing as the company has a "minimal" level of debt.

He also urged the separation of the life insurance and financial services divisions in order to improve valuation. The financial services arm rests on distribution through the Hambros Countrywide estate agency network.

Countrywide's new insurance business has grown

rapidly, but the two separated divisions could secure their flow of business if necessary with a marketing agreement, according to the proposal.

The statement noted that Countrywide Assured is valued at 8.5 times earnings, or nearly £400m, compared to a multiple of 23.1 for comparable insurance companies.

"The creation of two separate businesses will, we believe, give the market the transparency it needs to achieve the right valuation," it said.

John Mansfield Group, the bidding vehicle of Mr Treger and Mr Myerson, launched a hostile takeover bid for Marley, the building materials group, at the end of last month.

The bid was withdrawn last week after a higher offer was accepted from the Belgian building materials group Eter-

صكزا من الاصل

Monday / December 1968

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Lloyds-TSB plans single branch network

LLOYDS-TSB, the high street banking giant, is preparing a huge rebranding exercise to bring its 2,500 branches under a single green and blue Lloyds-TSB banner by the end of next year. The exercise could cost £15m-£20m, analysts said.

A final decision will not be taken until next spring. However, Lloyds has been experimenting with joint Lloyds-TSB branches in a number of loca-

BY ANDREW GARFIELD
Financial Editor

tions up and down the country and has been impressed by the results.

Peter Ellwood the Lloyds-TSB chief executive, said: "If they [the pilot schemes] continue to be as successful as they have been, the likelihood is that we will rebrand."

Since Lloyds bought the TSB

group in December 1995, around 300 branches have been closed. The group but has continued to keep the brands and the branch networks separate because of fears that it may alienate loyal customers.

But, Mr Ellwood said, customer attitudes have shifted in the three years since Lloyds bought TSB. Most customers surveyed recently said they were more concerned about the



quality of service and the convenience of branch locations than whether it was a Lloyds or TSB bank.



However, there are no plans to do away with the Cheltenham & Gloucester brand, Mr Ellwood said. The C&G is now

the sole supplier of mortgages within the group, with a £40bn lending book. It has 230 branches.

"The brand is so powerful. Its share of net new mortgage lending is 13.2 per cent. It is punching above its weight," Mr Ellwood said. Lloyds-TSB is now three-quarters of the way towards achieving its target of £400m cost savings before the end of 1999.

Mr Ellwood said Lloyds was keen to make a big acquisition, but the bank was not interested in a rival clearer. "There are quite heavy regulatory issues with everything very big," he said.

"We have made no secret that we think that if the market consolidated further we would be interested in both a mortgage provider and an insurance provider."

Mr Ellwood said the bank had not ruled out a bid abroad. However, he pointed out that outside the UK, a bidder is expected typically to pay a 20-30 per cent premium which is difficult to justify if you cannot move quickly to cut costs.

"We've not restricted our examination to the UK," he said. "But [in Europe] they have very low returns on equity and very low labour flexibility."

'Safe haven' status puts tobacco groups in Footsie

THE STOCK MARKET convulsions of the past few months have been enough to turn investors to smoking. As Footsie seceded, stressed-out traders have been steadily pouring money into tobacco stocks - a classic safe haven in uncertain times.

The nicotine sector will receive a puff of confidence on Wednesday when two of its members look set to be admitted to the Footsie. Imperial Tobacco, the maker of Regal and Lambert & Butler, is odds-on to become a blue chip when the FTSE Actuaries Committee meets for its quarterly review of the indices. Rival Gallaher is less of a certainty but, barring any share slump today or tomorrow, should join the big boys a mere 19 months after floating.

The two stocks have benefited from the traditional defensive qualities of the tobacco sector. Little exposure to the vagaries of the international economy, an almost recession-proof pool of customers and no or no exposure to the costly US lawsuits have given the market what it most wants in times of trouble: a steady stream of earnings.

Imperial, demerged from the Hanson conglomerate in August 1996, has also made a couple of crowd-pleasing acquisitions. The £185m takeover of Rizla, the rolling-paper maker, and the £660m purchase of the tobacco interests of the Dutch giant Douwe Egberts Van Nelle were well received by analysts. They lifted Imperial's price to rise over 60 per cent over the past year to Friday's close of 648p.

Gallaher, which makes Benson & Hedges and Silk Cut, has had a good run too, rising by a third to Friday's 433p. Analysts like the company for its strong brands and good international prospects.

Another rumour of Lord Hanson's empire could join the Foot-

STOCK MARKET WEEK



FRANCESCO GUERRERA

sie on Wednesday. Hanson, the building materials group, could bring the name back to the main index. A string of bolt-on acquisitions in the US, where the road-building market is booming, have boosted the shares. The resolution of a long-standing legal dispute with the American authorities also helped to increase Hanson's market cap to around £2.8bn - very close to the Footsie threshold.

In a bizarre coincidence, Hanson looks set to replace Mitsys. The IT group joined the Footsie in May when Energy Group, a former division of - guess what? - the Hanson conglomerate, was bought by Texas Utilities. The IT debate at Wednesday's meeting will be completed by the ejection of Sema. The software group only entered the blue-chip club in September, but since then the shares have lost more than 20

per cent on fears of a dry-up in orders from big financial clients. As two real IT stocks go out, one would-be IT company, Dixons, goes in. The electrical retailer has been the market's favourite of the past few months. Analysts have been inspired by the incredible success of its Internet service. Some have even been talking about a re-rating in line with the ballooning valuations of hi-tech stocks.

The Footsie revolving doors should also see Martin Sorrell's advertising agency WPP and the healthcare group Nycomed Amersham on their way out. The new Footsie configuration will take effect from December 21 to allow the index-tracking funds to pile up on the new boys and dump the has-beens.

The undercard will see a fair bit of change too. A dozen stocks are expected to drop out of the FTSE-250. The most eye-catching casualty is BICC. The construction and cable group, once a proud member of the top club, has been hammered by tough market conditions. Sales are still at over £400 but BICC has sunk to just £250m, and a humiliating relegation to the small cap looks certain.

MEF, the flat-pack furniture retailer, the cash-and-carry group Booker, another fallen giant, and the textile company Coats Viyella will also be ousted. They will be replaced by a four-strong "biotech pack". Chiroscience, Skypharma, Powderject and Celltech will lead the beleaguered sector's charge into the FTSE-250.

FOOTSIE INS AND OUTS

INS	OUTS
1 Imperial Tobacco	1 Sema
2 Dixons	2 Mitsys
3 Hanson	3 Nycomed Amersham
4 Gallaher	4 WPP

THIS WEEK'S DIARY

TODAY - Interim: Acl, Ashbury Group, British Land Company, Carclo Eng, Columbus Group, Falpi Trading, Jarvis, Norbin, Powdermill Pharm, Spring Group, Top Estates, Worthington Group, Fines: Phyto-pharm, Premier Assets, Trella, Economics: October industrial production, October manufacturing output, Events: Barclays deputy chairman, Sir Peter Large, gives evidence to Treasury Committee.

TUESDAY - Interim: Berkeley Group, Scottish and Newcastle, Boustead, BGS Group, BTP Paynewood, Jaxmin, London Clubs Int, Prism Railway, VHE Holding, Fines: Aberdeen Asset, Hockstock Group, Landround, Ultrafume, Economics: DRC Retail Sales Monitor.

WEDNESDAY - Interim: Acl, Courts, Prelude Trust, Scottish Hydro, Smith, Tinsley, Fines: Apollo Metals, Arth Ruson, Greenhall's Group, Heat's, Melrose, Sage Group, SHL Group, Victoria, Events: Monetary Policy Committee begins two-day interest rate meeting, George Soros gives evidence to the Treasury Committee.

THURSDAY - Interim: Bulmar, Fine Art Developments, First Technology, Hoddle Group, Hi-tech Sports, HP Bulmar Holdings, Lint, Ralston Security, Samuel Heath and Sons, Stagecoach, Harvey Nichols, Fines: Brooke Industrial, Compass, Countryside Properties, Daily Mail and General, Hove Holding, Racial Engineering, Economics: Monetary Policy Committee meeting ends.

FRIDAY - Interim: Atlantic Telecom, Proteus International, Fines: Bradstock Group, Edridge Pope, Granger Trust, Warner Estate, Windsor Estate, Economics: October machine tool output.



Jimi Hendrix: A dispute over rights to the late rock star's unreleased tapes was finally settled last week

Hendrix dispute cost £500,000

A TEN-YEAR-OLD legal dispute over royalties on an album by the late Jimi Hendrix was finally settled last week, after costing Britain's Legal Aid Board an estimated £500,000.

The row was between a tax-shelter company based in Panama called Presentaciones Musicales SA (PMSA), which used to own the rights to the rock star's recordings, and Daniel Secunda, a music agent based in London.

The saga, which has been dubbed "the Bleak House of music industry litigation," started in 1983 when Sony released *The Jimi Hendrix Concerts Album*, culled from 600 hours of the guitarist's unreleased tapes.

PMSA sued Mr Secunda over his role in putting the album together, and he counter-sued, claiming copyright to the material and demanding commission and expenses for performing his role as an agent.

Mr Secunda was granted legal aid in 1990 to continue to defend himself against PMSA. PMSA meanwhile applied to put itself into voluntary liquidation. Sony kept the royalties pending the case's resolution. Last week Sony Music paid £80,000 to PMSA to settle the claim.

WHO'S SUING WHOM

JOHN WILLCOCK

Tony Morris, the music industry lawyer at Marriott Harrison, the media law firm which acted for PMSA, commented: "It is unbelievable that legal aid funded this action at all, let alone the innumerable procedural applications made since 1990. The Legal Aid Board has spent half a million chasing rainbows."

LEGAL ACTION by over 1,200 overseas members of the Royal Automobile Club (RAC) over their exclusion from the £450m sale of the RAC's roadside activities is about to spark back into life, after a full since the summer.

Last week 25 members of the club who were living in the European Union in 1996, and who claim that the RAC failed to inform them of vital rule changes dating back to 1996, launched a

joint writ against the RAC. They claim that two years ago the RAC changed its membership rules so that those who lived or worked in the EU no longer had to register themselves as "overseas members."

The point is that only the 12,000 full members of the RAC will be able to receive the £35,000 payout when the roadside service is sold to Cendant of the US. The RAC membership voted to confirm the deal in August. Their definition of full membership excludes all "overseas" members.

The 25 EU members claim that the RAC never informed them of the rule change, which would have permitted them to change their status to full members, making them eligible for a payout.

So far around half a dozen writs have been issued by various overseas member groups, including Ladies, Retired, and those newly returned to the UK.

Today a group of US-based RAC members will attend a hearing in California to decide whether the courts there have the jurisdiction to hear their claim against the RAC.

THE COMPANY that published Sir Louis Blom-Cooper's book

The Birmingham Six and Other Cases last year is suing the barrister for funds to cover its own defence costs in the three libel cases that the Birmingham Six have now brought against the publishers in the Dublin courts.

Gerald Duckworth, a publishing company founded over 100 years ago, issued a writ against the noted barrister on 20 November. Sir Louis is also named in two of the libel actions.

When the barrister wrote his book in 1997 he signed a publishing agreement, which Duckworth claims included the provision that the book would contain nothing "objectionable or libellous".

Duckworth claims he signed an indemnity against any "loss, injury or damage including legal costs or expenses as the result of any claim" against them over the book.

In July and August this year the Birmingham Six started libel proceedings. They allege the book is libellous because it suggests they were in fact guilty of the charges which were quashed by the Court of Appeal in March 1991.

Sir Louis served notice last week that he intends to defend Duckworth's claim.

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SPORT

Anfield and Ibrox now seem like oases of tranquillity compared with life in Lisbon for Liverpool's former manager

Souness must tame monster of Benfica

HE LEANS against the small bridge over a running stream of water, takes a deep breath of cold, country air and inspects the water below. "You get trout in there," he says. "Brown trout." As if on demand, a brown fleck skims across the surface before disappearing under the bridge.

Two days earlier Graeme Souness had been inside Benfica's Stadium of Light urging and cajoling the largest football club in Portugal to win a vital match. The noise in one of Europe's, if not the world's greatest sporting venues is deafening. The expectancy is enormous. The pressure for the Benfica coach is unrelenting.

"I'm expected to lead Benfica to the Portuguese league championship, and to win the European Champions' League," he says, with a wry smile on his face. "Nothing too strenuous, then."

The Souness home back in England, nestled in Hampshire countryside close to the fine city of Winchester, serves as a peaceful haven for the man who has either played at or been in charge of some of Europe's major football establishments. As one of the most gifted midfield players of his generation, the Scottish international, having begun professional life at Tottenham and then Middlesbrough, won every club honour imaginable at Liverpool and Sampdoria before taking over the player-manager's reins at Rangers and transforming the club back into Scotland's premier outfit.

A less successful spell at Liverpool followed, although in winning the FA Cup in 1992 with a squad of ageing players left behind by the former manager, Kenny Dalglish, coupled with personal health problems, Souness's achievement has never quite been recognised. Taking an enforced year's sabbatical he then re-emerged in Istanbul, where he coached Galatasaray to various domestic honours, before returning to England as manager of Southampton. A short and fruitless spell with Torino preceded the move to Lisbon.

All this is some list by anyone's standards, yet for all the magnitude of most of his previous clubs, Souness insists nothing compares to Benfica. "It's not just the biggest club in Portugal," he says, as he takes his Barbour off, and rubs his cold hands close to the warmth of the raging coal fire. "It's the only club. Of course, the likes of Porto and Sporting have good, European track records, but in terms of interest, it's only Benfica. I'm talking about a monster of a club here."

Surely Souness has grown used



IAN STAFFORD

to such conditions at Anfield and Ibrox? "Yes, I have," he agrees. "But Benfica's something different altogether. After training I have to deal with 40 journalists, writing for three national sports newspapers, and 10 camera crews. That's every day."

"Every single thing you do is scrutinised. I've learned to accept that if I make a substitution, it's the wrong substitution. And if I don't introduce a sub into a game, then I've made a mistake. People talk about the British media. Believe me, they are absolute gentlemen compared to the Portuguese media."

He makes it sound as if he is struggling at Benfica. The facts paint a different picture. When he

They've not won a league championship for four years. That, in Portugal, constitutes a major crisis. I've been in charge for a year. Do you know, that makes me the longest-serving coach at the club for six years. Sporting went through four coaches last season."

What will happen if Benfica fail to qualify from their Champions' League group? "Oh, the knives will come out again," he answers. "But that happens on a daily basis. Don't get me wrong. Benfica's a fantastic club. I love living and working in Portugal, and the club president has been superb, but Benfica has major financial problems, and until they're taken care of the supporters are never going to get the club they dream about."

It is incredible to think that a club of Benfica's size can be in such dire financial straits. Souness agrees.

"You're right, but the facts are that the club was previously mismanaged. Fortunes have been spent and money's gone out of the window. In a two-year period they bought 50 players. Fifty players! The finances - or lack of them - are an enormous problem for me, and for the president. He's working day and night to put things right, but it's going to take a little time."

"It's frustrating because people

Rangers I was 33 years old. I was just a boy. I know as a player that I overstepped the mark on occasions. I know as a manager I used to do the same."

"That's all in the past, now. I like to think I'm a reasonably intelligent person, and reasonably intelligent people learn from their mistakes. I have a wife who hits me over the head on a daily basis to make things relative, and all the experiences I have had, both home and abroad, have helped to make me more aware of what football's all about."

We take a walk through the grounds surrounding his sprawling home. He may be two hours away from Lisbon, but here, in the heart of the Hampshire countryside, he is a world apart. Part of him loves life in Portugal, and the challenge of coaching a club such as Benfica. "I still love the job, the lifestyle, the food, and the people," he insists. "I want to make it happen for Benfica. And I must keep on working. I have a work ethic instilled into me as a boy in the back streets of Edinburgh. It's good for your soul and for your well-being."

Yet another part of him yearns to return home. The various English managers' jobs Souness has been linked with, notably at Blackburn, have only been speculative. "It's flattering," the man says. "But it's not an issue until someone makes a concrete offer. And no, nobody has."

"You can't rule out anything in football. You just don't know what's round the corner. If you coach a Latin club, you're always only four games away from the sack at any given time, and that applies to the guys at Porto and Sporting too. Sure, I would like to manage another club in England again, some time. But it would have to be the right club."

"What I do know is that I have a wife and family back in England, and although Karen travels out a lot to see me, or I come home when I can after the weekend, it's not enough. I have a commitment and duty to my family, and I must start to look after this side of my life more sooner rather than later."

Graeme Souness plunges his hands deep into his coat pockets and casts a long, lingering look around, the rural silence only interrupted by the sound of a crow and the ripples from the stretch of river he owns. "This is me," he says, almost to himself as much to his inquisitor, as he heads back indoors to spend some valuable time at home before flying back to Lisbon and the hot, bubbling cauldron that awaits his return.



Bridge over troubled water? Graeme Souness takes a brief respite from the Lisbon cauldron in the garden of his home in the Hampshire countryside
David Ashdown

'People forget that I was just a boy when I first went into management. I know as a player and as a manager that I overstepped the mark on occasions'

took over in Lisbon last November, bringing his long-time assistant and friend, Phil Boersma, with him, the giants of Portugal were languishing in sixth place, and already so far behind Porto that any chance of ending the season as champions had disappeared. Souness, despite horrendous financial problems, dragged the club into second place, and qualification for this season's Champions' League.

To date, Benfica lie fourth in the Portuguese league, five points behind Porto, and have a chance of qualification into the quarter-finals of the Champions' League as one of the best group runners-up if they can beat a below-par PSV in Eindhoven on Wednesday evening.

This, however, is not good enough for the masses who follow Benfica. Not nearly good enough. "Anyone with a rational mind would argue that I've done reasonably well," Souness explains. "But this is Benfica we're talking about here."

either don't recognise or understand the problems we have. They see us finishing second in the league last year and, as a result, expect us to win every game this season. I happen to think we've done well with the limited resources we have. I reckon, if only a little money could be provided, that we could become a major force in Europe again, and champions at home. I believe we can still win the league this season, but it's not easy in such conditions."

The Souness of old - that fiery competitor who took no prisoners as either a player at Liverpool, or a manager at Rangers - might have self-combusted at Benfica with rage and frustration. The new Souness, post-Liverpool, heart scares and marriage to the calming influence of his wife, Karen, remains philosophical.

"I still have my moments," he admits. "But I'm far more in control these days. People forget that when I first went into management at

Jenkins withdraws diplomatic relations

Life at Number 10:
An Autobiography
By Neil Jenkins with Paul Rees
Mainstream, £14.99, hardback.

A POLITICAL allusion in the title is apposite, since Franco-Welsh diplomatic relations are given a bit of thump in the run-up to the season of goodwill. It is to be hoped that Neil Jenkins' book remains this side of the channel.

Should any Frenchman read "Brive Encounters", the Wales stand-off's 19th chapter (neatly titled, as they all are, the majority seemingly pun on film titles), he would probably have an apoplectic fit. It deals with the infamous

BOOK OF THE WEEK

Heineken European Cup tie in France between Jenkins' club, Pontypridd, and the eventual winners, Brive. And it lays the blame firmly at the feet of the French.

Worse, New Zealander Murray Mexted is quoted at length on French attitudes to the game in general. The former All Black No 8 had a spell with Agen and does not mince his words: "Playing at home you go down on the ball and everything is OK; playing away you never go down on the ball, unless you have

it in you to die for your club. In other words in home matches you kick the hell out of them and in away matches they kick the hell out of you. The average French club is not expected to win away... French referees apply great favouritism to the home side..." And there is more in the same vein. Jenkins fans the flames by adding: "It is worth quoting Mexted at length because his words came true for Pontypridd in Dax, then in Brive."

The latter match overflowed with passion from both sides; it was also packed with punch-ups. And once the final whistle had blown on a disappointing and narrow defeat for the Welsh club, the frustration

was frog-marched along to the Bar Toulzac where there was another, more serious flare-up.

Jenkins says: "It emerged that the trouble had started when one of their players threw a bottle at our centre Jason Lewis and it hit him on the head." Two wrongs... as they say, but as Jenkins says, "...to attack one of us was attack us all... Ponty boys do not hold back." Indeed they did not, and it all ended unhappily after that.

For all the apparent macho posturing of that particularly unsavoury affair, Jenkins actually comes across very well. His innate honesty and candour are given veracity, courtesy of Rees's un-

doubted skills. All too often Jenkins has been accorded robotic qualities because of his phenomenal, metronomic kicking ability, to a certain extent dehumanising him.

There is no doubt that the statistics are an integral part of the man, and a stunning section at the end of the book attests to his forte. But co-writer Rees has managed to open the door on this particular No 10 and has brought out the inner man a little.

The 27-year-old Jenkins has the good grace to admit that this autobiography only goes up to half-time. The finished product should make for an even more rounded read.

David Llewellyn

THIS WEEK'S TOP TEN SPORTS BOOKS

- 1 European Football Yearbook 1998-99, edited by Mike Hammond (Sports Projects, paperback, £23.95)
- 2 Addicted, Tony Adams with Ian Ridley (Collins Willow, hardback, £16.99)
- 3 Turning Point, Sean Fitzpatrick and Duncan Johnstone (Penguin, hardback, £16.99)
- 4 Back Home: How the World Watched the World Cup, edited by Andy Lyons and Mike Titcher (WSC, paperback, £9.99)
- 5 Club Colours, Bob Bickerton (Hamlyn, hardback, £25.00)
- 6 The Carling Ultimate Football Guide 1999, edited by Mike Williams (Sky Blue Publications, paperback, £14.95)
- 7 Shark Among Dolphins, Steve Hubbard (Ballantine Books, paperback, £5.50)
- 8 Bremner: The Legend of Billy Bremner, Bernard Bale (Andre Deutsch, hardback, £14.99)
- 9 The Baggy Green: World Series to World Champions, Viv Jenkins (New Holland, paperback, £14.99)
- 10 An Arm and Four Legs, Stan Hey (Yellow Jersey, hardback, £15.00)

Chart compiled by Sportspages, 94-96 Charing Cross Road, London (0171 240 9604) and St Ann's Square, Manchester (0161 832 8530)

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صكزا من الاموال

Davis Cup rethink follows Swedish success

AS THE arias subsided on Saturday with the realisation that Italy's Davis Cup final campaign had ended in defeat after three matches, Davide Sanguineti's mobile telephone was stolen from the side of the court. The Italian No 2 was probably relieved that he was unable to take calls.

By this time the switchboard at SVT, the Swedish terrestrial television service, had resumed normal service. It had been jammed by irate viewers complaining that coverage of Friday's epic opening match between Magnus Norman and

TENNIS

BY JOHN ROBERTS
in Milan

Andrea Gaudenzi had been cut off with the Swede serving at 5-4 in the fifth set.

Regional news programmes were shown in place of the dramatic climax to events at the Fila Forum, where Gaudenzi saved a match point and was then forced to retire because of a torn shoulder ligament when serving at 6-6, 0-30.

This was not the first example of Swedish television pulling

the plug on the Davis Cup. The match between Thomas Enqvist and Italy's Renzo Furlan during last year's semi-final was cut for a children's programme, and none of the monumental 1996 final against France in Malmö was shown live.

"It seems that they don't understand what the Davis Cup... means to people," said Jan Francke, president of the Swedish Tennis Federation, who is among the contenders to succeed Brian Tabin as president of the International Tennis Federation next July.

Tabin saw Swedish televi-

sion's action as part of a wider problem. "We love exciting five-set matches like we had here on the first day," he said. "Great drama, great stuff. Swedish television knocked off in the fifth set and didn't finish the match because of time constraints. That's not very good from their point of view. But again, it leads home to the fact that we have to try to contain the matches into some sort of reasonable period."

The Davis Cup Committee is considering a proposal to have three-set singles matches for the first two rounds of the com-

petition and five-set singles matches for the semi-finals and final. The doubles matches - the only contest played on the second day - would continue to be played over five sets.

"We're looking into that proposal (for 2001)," Tabin said. "It's out of deference to the players to some extent, their schedule. It's out of deference to the time people sit, and to the television time you can get."

Tabin was asked if there was not a danger of damaging the purity of the game. "That's the fear," he agreed. "Neale Fraser (an Australian member

of the Davis Cup Committee), who captained in Davis Cup matches, will tell you that stamina and fitness is a big component of being able to win tennis matches. He believes that five-set matches are the ultimate test. He's weakening, though."

Fraser's idea is to play two three-set matches on the opening day while retaining five sets for the doubles and "live" reverse singles.

Tabin, emphasising that the committee is "only discussing options", added that another proposal was to reduce the

number of teams in the elite World Group from 16 to 14.

"What does that do? It gives the two finalists (from the previous year) a bye. Sometimes you win the Davis Cup in December and you lose it in February. It would supposedly give the top players one match less in a year, one week less. Does that get [Pete] Sampras, or whoever, to play? I don't know."

"We're looking at perhaps combining some sort of round-robin system instead of a knockout for the first three rounds. That way you know where the matches are, which helps the

host country promoting. Television knows where it is, sponsors know where it is. The competition has been going for a hundred years... and we've got to be very careful to change it. We don't want to go backwards."

Diego Nargiso saved Italy from a whitewash, defeating Norman 6-2, 6-3 in the second of yesterday's reverse singles.

DAVIS CUP FINAL (Milan, It): Singles (Fri): M Norman (Swe) bt A Gaudenzi (It) 7-6 4-6 6-3 6-6 (Gaudenzi retired injured in fifth set); M Gaudenzi (Swe) bt D Sanguineti (It) 6-1 6-4 6-4; Doubles (Sat): J Bjorkman and N Pietrangeli (Swe) bt G Nargiso and D Sanguineti (It) 7-6 6-1 6-3. Singles (Wed): M Gaudenzi bt G Pozzi (It) 6-4 6-2; D Nargiso bt M Norman 6-2 6-3 (Sweden win 4-1).

Headley and Hick aim for Adelaide

THERE CAN seldom have been a less relevant fixture than the one currently being played in the world's largest cricket stadium between an England side lacking its Test attack and a Victoria team shorn of eight first-choice players. Indeed, the MCG has been so empty

over the last few days that you could almost hear the clamour for places in the next Test. As these amount to perhaps two spots at most, the noise has not been deafening.

So far, the strongest claims have come from Graeme Hick, who scored 67, and Dean Headley. Mind you, against a side recognisable only by name as Victoria, it was difficult to draw any solid conclusions other than confirmation that Hick is a lambaster of second-

rate bowling and that the England tail does not require the close attentions of a decent fast bowler to collapse.

In fact if the shortcomings of the opposition proved anything it was that Angus Fraser's struggle to find rhythm and nip are not over and while Headley was busy bowling himself into contention, Fraser was bowling himself out of it.

On an MCG pitch that had serious bounce and some occasional lateral movement, Headley consistently troubled the batsmen and deserved better than the two wickets he finished the day with. Headley can be distinctly slippery when the mood takes him and he was the only England bowler to hurry his opponents on an otherwise sluggish pitch.

Matthew Mott, a stodgy left-handed opener, edged a beauty that bounced and left him in the howler's second over, while Graeme Vimpani, well taken by Graham Thorpe at first slip, was beaten for pace as he tried to cut. At one point, Victoria were 87 for 5 before a patient partnership between Shawn Craig and the wicketkeeper Peter Roach stopped the immediate rot and got within 50 runs of the follow-on target.

As one of the recognisable athletes in the squad, Headley also fielded pretty well, taking a smart catch by his ankles at mid-on and managing a run-out from the same position with a brilliant pick-up and direct hit to dismiss Jason Arnbreger.

CRICKET

BY DEREK PRINGLE
in Melbourne

England 373
Victoria 177-5

In a country where chances have to be taken in all walks of life, England's outfielding, and especially their catching, has come in for some justifiable criticism. Dean Jones, a former Test batsman and a terrific outfielder, is the latest to add his two cents' worth.

After watching the England bowlers not playing better than a series of shuttle sprints after play had started, Jones,

SCOREBOARD

Second day of four, England won toss
ENGLAND - First innings
(Overseas) 306 for 5
M R Rampakrish C Roach b Bakker ...78
G A Hick low b Gilbert ...67
B C Hollis low b Bakker ...53
R D Croft not out ...0
D W Headley c Williams b Bakker ...3
A R C Fraser c Williams b Davidson ...8
Extras (lb 6 w 1 nb 1) ...8
Total (128 overs) ...373
Fall: 1-21 2-31 3-55 4-85 5-147 6-156
7-267 8-362 9-365
Bowling: Williams 27-7-0-1; Gilbert 29-7-0-2; Jones 31-10-0-1; Bakker 20-6-0-3; Davidson 19-3-7-7-1; Craig 2-0-0-0.
VICTORIA - First innings
J L Arnbreger not out ...19
M P Mott c Stewart b Headley ...0
G R Vimpani c Thorpe b Headley ...1
S J Hodge low b Headley ...1
S A J Craig not out ...39
J R Roach c Headley b Croft ...29
IP J Roach not out ...54
Extras (lb 4 w 1) ...21
Total (for 5, 65 overs) ...177
Fall: 1-4 2-24 3-43 4-57
5-66 6-80 7-84 8-85 9-87
10-88 11-89 12-90 13-91 14-92
Bowling: Headley 17-2-34-2; Fraser 15-5-30-0; Hollis 11-0-33-1; Croft 21-4-48-1; Rampakrish 2-0-18-0
Umpires: T A Pugh and G T O Morrow

commenting on Channel 7, said he felt England would be better served by practising skills like catching rather than fitness.

Hearing the comments, England's coach, David Lloyd, not always the calmest of people when criticism is being dished out, went to put the record straight. On a quiet day, speculation that Lloyd had rowed with Jones, formerly captain of Derbyshire, began to spread like a hush fire.

In fact Lloyd, who is on a last warning from the England Cricket Board about his conduct, did not speak to Jones at all. Instead, he sought out the Channel 7 producer Margaret Hutchings to put the record straight. Apparently, he pointed out that had Jones been on the ground earlier, before play had begun, he would indeed



Empty seats at the MCG but Graeme Hick and Dean Headley may have booked their tickets for the next Test. Allsport.

have seen England practising catching and fielding.

For once, Lloyd was well within his rights to point out the inaccuracy. Unfortunately, in the wake of Graham Gooch's continuing curtness with the Australian media, it will probably be used to reinforce the belief that all Poms are whingers.

Actually two of the side, Hick and Ben Hollis, had genuine cause for complaint and both were victims of liberal interpretations of the law. Both were key dismissals as England lost their last five wick-

ets for 17 runs, three of them to Jason Bakker, a medium-pace of few pretensions.

In an ideal world, Hollis, playing as a batting all-rounder, would be the answer to England's problems at No 7. As it was, only his second knock of the tour ended prematurely when he shuffled and played across a length ball that would have missed leg stump.

Later his bowling - his first stint of the tour - fared little better. Despite the important wicket of Brad Hodge, a centurion in this fixture four years

ago, his spell was littered with half-volleys and no-balls. At 21, he still has enormous potential, but on the evidence here his graduation to becoming an all-rounder of Test class is patently still some way off.

That, by and large, is England's problem and it does not help in the creation of a balanced side when those who can bat cannot bowl and those who can bowl cannot bat. However, if this makes England's task of levelling the series in Adelaide that much more difficult, this match has at least given their

captain, Alec Stewart, some much needed time in the middle. Amazingly, his century was only his second from the 48 first-class innings he has played this year.

The match, despite its lack of allure, may well have served a purpose by giving Thorpe a work-out, too. Over the past few series he has been England's most successful batsman against Australia. If Perth is anything to go by, England need Thorpe fit and firing, not watching from the sidelines with a corset on.

A legend lives on in style

MAGNETISM IS important if you are a tennis player. I had realised a year before that John McEnroe, whom I had paid no previous attention to, had it. He had been on a chat show, shirt half open, (this had nothing to do with it), being funny and clever. Not brattish and no sign of the fluffy cartoon hair.

Thank goodness for the Senior Tour of Champions at Olympia then. Another chance (in this case my first), to see legends that you have heard about, read about and just come to see for yourself, play again. I wish other sports did this. How good it would be to see George Best kick a ball for real, even if he did it slowly, and with the encouragement of a Santa-belly. A disappointment? Faded glory? Not a hit of it. Best's magnetism would be what people went to see and he can still deliver that. Who else? Nellie Kim? Nadia Comaneci, Olga Korbut. Them doing just a couple of forward rolls would be enough.

Thus far, McEnroe suffers not from rickety limbs or an abnormal haemoglobin-to-Stella-Artois count and he plays tennis fabulously, entertainingly well. I was watching him on Saturday in a Seniors group match, playing Henri Leconte, who was Patsy to McEnroe's Fonzy. Leconte tries to be cool and funny and have "it". He's good-looking even. But I found him boring. His tried-at funny asides that the hum-licky crowd laughed at just made me sit lower in my seat. He served some devastating aces, overall faster and more deadly than McEnroe. And his hilly little cross-court returns caught his opponent out on a good few occasions. But his tennis shoes squeaked.

From the moment they all came out to warm up, McEnroe had the advantage. "Oh, my God, there's McEnroe", were the supra-voce whispers from around me. He changed into his on-court shoes and took off a sweatshirt and this brief moment of undressing prompted frenetic, some would say begging, whispers: "Don't tell me he's going to take his trousers off. Is he going to take his trousers off?" was repeated five or so times and not just from women.

After a few minutes of leisurely practice McEnroe missed the ball in spectacular schoolgirl fashion. I'd recognise that swing-round manoeuvre anywhere as the racket fails to find the ball and for a moment a pocket of wasted energy hangs in the air. How many



ANNALISA BARBIERI
AT OLYMPIA

times I've been there, and how reassuring it is to see that even the big ones do it.

Once the proper game started I saw how balletic McEnroe's style was. He jumps around a lot, his back arches, his feet point and kick back. Very elegant style. His hair, I noticed, was much, much greyer than Leconte's. Also, McEnroe shows his tummy a lot during play, despite repeatedly tucking his shirt in. Leconte's shirt stayed analy in place throughout.

Despite both being famed as serve-volley players, they both played pretty much from the baseline. Much more genteel that way. No one mentioned tennis could be so hypnotic and I was almost lulled. Perhaps because nowadays tennis is more like a penalty shoot-out.

Then there were the ball-girls. I marvelled at their ability to pick up balls efficiently, without having to chase them as I had always had to do. To be able to see when the player needed more balls even though their faces gave nothing away. And just how many tennis balls could they hold? I saw one girl pick up at least five and squirrel them away behind her back, not dropping one. I wondered, were her hands a job requirement? Surely they must be. At one point Leconte got impatient with a ball-girl's inability to throw the ball exactly to him and he, surly, turned away from her, favouring another ball-girl's balls instead. The shame! The poor, scorned girl hushed to her fleshy knees and I realised that the subject of ball-girls was a fly on the wall documentary subject as yet untapped.

Back to the game. There were some tremendously exciting hits as both players got balls you never thought they would, some blindingly fast aces, heart-stopping volleys and good proper tennis, where your head went left, right, left, right, at least 10 times. Then McEnroe won.

McEnroe may play with Graf at Wimbledon

JOHN MCENROE beat Yannick Noah 7-5, 6-3 in the final of the Hooda Challenge at London's Olympia yesterday then hinted he might play with Steffi Graf in the mixed doubles at Wimbledon next year.

The American won the first set in 48 minutes, then went to 4-0 in the second. Noah broke back to 4-3 but McEnroe regained control to win the next two games, and the title for the

second successive year, after an hour and 29 minutes.

"Steffi saw me in Geneva last week and suggested we might play," McEnroe said of the mooted pairing with Graf. "Playing with Steffi is very tempting. It's been about 20 years since I last played mixed doubles. Steffi and I could lose but it's not likely. She could pull me through so I might be able to fit it in."

West Indies bowlers left to labour in stalemate

WAYNE WILBIN hit his fourth first-class century yesterday but it was not enough to help Border beat the West Indies as their three-day match ended in a draw.

With no prospect of a result at East London's Buffalo Park, the game was called off an hour before the scheduled close

with Border having reached 340 for 8 in their second innings. The last act of the match was Wilbin going to his century in 139 minutes, off 103 balls and with 14 fours and a six.

Border resumed on 21 without loss and batted solidly all day as the West Indian bowlers toiled without significant success.

The major partnership was the 163 Craig Sugden and Mark Boucher shared for the second wicket. They departed in successive overs, both for 84. Sugden faced 165 balls and hit nine fours and two sixes, while Boucher's innings came off 111 balls with 13 fours and a six.

Wilbin and Pieter Strydom then added 87 for the fourth wicket as Border effectively ended the match as a contest.

They were 206 runs ahead at tea, when a token declaration was expected, but it never came and consequently the game petered out.

Leg-spinner Rawl Lewis wheeled away for 26 overs in

claiming 3 for 108, the best of the West Indian bowling figures.

The tourists now travel to Port Elizabeth, where the second Test against South Africa starts on Thursday. The home side have brought in Herschelle Gibbs for Adam Bacher as the only change to their squad for the game at St George's Park.

Gibbs is set to open despite having appeared in the middle-order for most of his career.

TOUR MATCH (East London): Final day of three; Border 282 for 9 dec (C Sugden 76, S M White 56, M Dillon 4-56) and 340 for 8 dec (W Wilbin 100, C A Sugden 84, M V Boucher 84); West Indies 356 (S Chandrapaul 52, P A Wallace 68; P Enslie 4-124). Match drawn.

South Africa Test Squad. Digest, page 22

Smith sends Bournville to a surprise exit

MARK SMITH, Old Cranleighs' Wales striker, scored twice as the Old Boys overcame a two-goal deficit to beat the Premier League side Bournville 4-2 in the surprise result of the fourth round of the men's EHA Cup.

Cranleighs, with another former Wales international, Jon

HOCKEY

BY BILL COLWILL

Rees, dominating the midfield, were worthy winners in a fiercely contested game. After Simon Organ and Phil Harper had given the visitors a two-goal lead in 18 minutes, Cran-

leighs ground their way back. Jon Reed responded just before interval, with Smith getting the first of his two goals from a superb cross from Don Williams. Williams lashed home the third before Smith scored his second with a couple of minutes left.

It was a wretched weekend for Bournville who on Saturday

threw away a four-goal advantage against the Premier League leaders, Canterbury, to lose 6-2. The Kent club's David Mathews scored five times as they maintained their two-point lead. Canterbury continued their fine form with a 8-1 win against Pelicans in the Cup, with Sean Kerly scoring twice.

SATURDAY'S LOTTERY UPDATE.

Draw date: 5/12/98. The winning numbers: 4, 7, 23, 26, 27, 35. Bonus number: 28.
Total Sales: £56,239,245. Prize Fund: £25,307,660 (45% of ticket sales).

CATEGORY	NO. OF WINNERS	AMOUNT FOR EACH WINNER	TOTAL EACH TIER
Match 6 (Jackpot)	2	£3,827,226	£7,254,452
Match 5 plus bonus ball	21	£106,292	£2,232,132
Match 5	954	£1,462	£1,394,744
Match 4	59,346	£51	£3,028,846
Match 3	1,135,879	£10	£11,358,790
TOTALS	1,198,002		£25,268,762

Total Sales including Instant and Wednesday Draw: £58,907,373.
Total week's contribution to Good Causes: £26,700,000.

Prize fund (prizes rounded down to nearest £1) £42,892.
© Camelot Group plc. Players must be 16 or over.

Maybe, just maybe... THE NATIONAL LOTTERY

In the event of any discrepancy in the above, the data contained in Camelot's central computer system shall prevail.

Thud and blunder Twickenham contest reduces world champions South Africa to the status of mere mortals

England stop the clock of history

INCONSISTENT? NOT England. You can set your clock - or, to be absolutely precise, your advent calendar - by the way they play their rugby. One world-class performance every 12 months, always in the first week of December, makes them paragon of regularity. It may be exasperating for the patriotic purist who measures his country's achievements in terms of matches won and trophies installed in cabinets, but at least the smoked salmon socialites know when to book their Twickenham tickets.

It was on 6 December 1997 that the red roses last bloomed in such glorious unison and on that occasion, the best side in the world once removed - the All Blacks - were profoundly fortunate to board the plane back to New Zealand with a draw tucked away to their hand luggage. A year on, the latest best team in the world - the Springboks - were not nearly so lucky. Sadly, next year's World Cup final is scheduled for 6 November and will therefore arrive four weeks early for England, but in the absence of an appropriately timed international fixture, they could still make one hell of a mess of a few pampered students by gatecrashing the Varsity Match.

The message was not lost on Lawrence Dallaglio as the England captain reflected on a tense, seurotic and ultimately tumultuous afternoon of thud and blunder. "The South Africans came here as reigning world champions and, more to the immediate point, as the best and most successful side currently playing Test rugby," he said. "And we beat them. Good for us, it's an incredibly satisfying feeling. But we haven't inherited their mantle by winning one tight game over 80 minutes. We will only equal and surpass the best by beating them consistently and, quite obviously, we still have a long way to travel in that regard."

Before they embark on that little expedition, Dallaglio's men will have to negotiate their way from cloud nine to terra firma rather more quickly than they completed a similar trip this time last season. After winning the All Blacks blow for blow, they set sail for France in a spirit of high-flown adventure and quickly found themselves in the Parisian version of Queer Street. This time, they sit out the first round of Five Nations matches before welcoming the Scots to Twickenham in the penultimate week of February. That game is now central to England's psychological well-being, as well as to the World Cup planning.

Dallaglio's reaction to England's first victory over serious southern hemisphere opposition in three and a half years was right and proper: a climactic rush of jubilation at the final whistle, a quiet smirk of self-congratulation in the corner of the dressing-room and then a renewed furore of the brow in contemplation of the battles and wars to come.

"One of the good things about this performance was the way we reacted to that opening Springbok try," mused the captain. "We always thought we would win enough possession to take the game to them, but when you go seven points down early to a side chasing a world record you need self-belief every bit as much as you need the ball. When the question was asked, the belief was there."

In fact, it was England who asked the more fundamental questions; questions that the



CHRIS HEWETT
AT TWICKENHAM

England 13
South Africa 7

Springbok tight five, in particular, were unable to answer. The loss to long-term injury of Os du Randt, that Table Mountain of a loose-head prop, has had such a debilitating effect on the Bokke pack that Darren Garforth, Martin Johnson and Tim Rodber were able to clap the tourists in leg irons. It did not help the tourists' cause that Bobby Skinstad, their messianically gifted flanker, was permitted to lose a role by the South African tacticians. "He's going to have to get a hit ugly rather than hang around in the threequarters waiting for some razzmatazz; it was seven of theirs against eight of ours for a lot of the game," remarked Jeremy Guscott, talking like a prop who missed his vocation.

Admittedly, Skinstad created the one and only South Africa try by holding up the ball going left, sucking three England defenders into his magnetic field and then floating the most exquisite skip-pass to Pieter Rossouw. But when the Boks needed something earlier, some darker deed to be performed, poor Rassie Erasmus was invariably down there on his own, striving for parity in an unequal struggle with Dallaglio, Richard Hill and Neil Back. It would take the tourists another 75 minutes to break loose again, only to be denied by Dan Luger's fingertips as Werner Swanepoel tried to locate the predatory Stefan Terblanche with a pass that might have been the saving of his side.

By contrast, England's game plan - yes, they really do have one - worked like clockwork, right down to the call for Mike Catt to head a teasing cross-field kick on the head of a back-peddalling Terblanche. Just as he would deep in injury time, Luger stole a march on his man by fielding the ball and wrestling away a scoring pass to Guscott, who had already pelted around the short side and fixed his sights on the left corner flag. "Nothing to do with me," smiled



The rampaging England lock Tim Rodber brushes aside Christian Stewart's tackle as Springbok team-mate Andre Snyman moves in at Twickenham David Ashdown

Clive Woodward, whose critics have labelled him a tactic-free zone. Of course, it had everything to do with him. He remains an inspired attacking theoretician.

At seven points apiece inside 13 minutes, the declarations of intent had been made; there would be no quarter asked or given, no backward steps and the Devil take the hindmost. It was brutally hard. Like two boiled eggs quivering on the same plate, Richard Cockerill and James Dalton were in punching range of each other from first ruck to last. Robbie Kempson found Garforth such a tiresome handful that he lost his rag entirely; Krynauw Otto caught Guscott with a miserably cheap shot that sent the Prince of Centres flying horizontally

past the Royal Box; and, more legitimately, the magnificent Erasmus sliced both Catt and Rodber in two with platinum-enriched tackles.

In a contest of such grim intensity, the error count was always likely to be decisive. The Springboks made more, far more, than England. Not only did they give Matt Dawson, admirably cool on his kicking debut at Twickenham, the chance to goal two contrasting second-half penalties to clinch the spoils, but they allowed the London crowd to see the likes of Percy Montgomery, Joost van der Westhuizen and Mark Andrews in an entirely new light. That is to say, as imperfect human beings rather than green-shirted demigods.

Mercifully, some aspects of rugby will never change. If you make your tackles - all of them - you will always stand a better than even chance of victory. And, more importantly still, no one ever gets to win them all. Not even 15 Springboks with one hand on history.

England: Try Guscott; Conversion Dawson; Penalties Dawson 2. South Africa: Try Rossouw; Conversion Montgomery; Conversion N. Beal (Northampton); T. du Randt (Newcastle); J. Guscott (Bath); P. de Gier (Bath); D. Luger (Northampton); M. Catt (Bath); M. Erasmus (Northampton); J. Leonard (Pretoria); N. Coetzee (D. Garforth); M. Johnson (all Leicester); T. Rodber (Northampton); L. Dallaglio (Worcester); N. Hill (Saracens); N. Back (Leicester); Replacement: D. Rennie (Sale) for Underwood; S. A. Healy (Leicester) for Rennie; A. King (Worcester) for de Gier; S. D. Guscott (Saracens) for Rodber; S. Terblanche (Boland); A. Snyman (Blue Bulls); C. Swanepoel (Western Province); P. Montgomery (Western Province); S. Terblanche (Boland); A. Snyman (Blue Bulls); C. Swanepoel (Western Province); J. van der Westhuizen (Blue Bulls); R. Kempson (Natal); J. Beal (Golden Lions); A. Garvey (Natal); N. Oza (Blue Bulls); M. Andrews (Natal); J. Erasmus (Free State); G. T. Williams (Natal); R. Skinstad (Western Province); Replacement: A. Venter (Free State) for Andrews; A. G. de Ruiter (Natal) for Garvey; S. W. Swanepoel (Free State) for Van der Westhuizen; 69. Referee: P. O'Brien (New Zealand).

Luger thanks Larder right down to his vital fingertips

BY DAVID LLEWELLYN

PROFESSIONAL RUGBY union has seen an explosion in the number of specialists employed to take on international players' every need. But until now a vital one has been overlooked. More important than the coaches, the medical team, the kit man and the sports psychologist is the manicurist.

There is every chance, after viewing the match video, that the England coach Clive Woodward will issue strict instructions that players' fingernails are to be pared, rasped, varnished even, but never bitten or even clipped close.

While the bulk of the England supporters among the sell-out crowd at Twickenham had chewed their fingernails to the quick during an enthralling match, it was just as well as that Dan Luger still had his intact. Without them England might have been the ones shedding the tears and South Africa celebrating a world record.

The England winger, who played a crucial role in Jeremy Guscott's try, had an even more important hand in preventing the Springboks from scoring one right at the death. When Werner Swanepoel, the replacement scrum-half, spun out a pass to Stefan Terblanche it was Luger who managed to intercept, getting enough contact to send the ball to ground. "It's all a bit of a blur," Luger

admitted. "But as I remember they tapped and went at the penalty. I was tracking back. I knew we were outnumbered and I was aware of Terblanche coming up fast. I was waiting to see what happened. The pass went out and I stuck out my hand. Luckily I hadn't cut my fingernails, because the ball hit them and went to ground."

Luger owes as much to another specialist, Phil Larder for being in the right place at the

"I think the fact that the majority of our games are going to be played here at Twickenham means we can go into the World Cup next year with a very positive mind. We have just taken on the best teams in the world and we've beaten one of them and we've had less than a single point. "Come the World Cup we will play better, we will defend better, we'll run the football better, we'll be far more tactically aware

them count. You have to get into position to make the tackle, anticipate the direction of attack by the opponents, a host of factors. And it should involve all 15, as it did against the world champions."

Prop Darren Garforth was made man of the match and given a Krugerrand as much for his defensive play as for his skill in the tight as the South African front-five effort was all but neutralised. His club Leicester also benefit from Larder's wisdom, and Garforth said: "Phil's input has been awesome. His work with us is starting to bear fruit. He gets us thinking."

"It's all in the mind, this defence; it's all about organisation. In all my years in rugby I've not encountered any ideas like his."

The admiration and respect is mutual. Larder said: "Over the last year I think there has been a 100 per cent improvement in England's defence. When I took over the front row was a little bit iffy. Now though they are defending really well, particularly Jason Leonard and Garforth, who was awesome today."

But there is no satisfying a perfectionist. Larder said: "By the World Cup we should not be looking at tackle counts, but rather at keeping the missed tackle count down in single figures. There is a lot of room for improvement still."

THE RECORD RUN AND HOW IT ENDED			
Australia	1997	61-22	Pretoria
Italy	1997	62-31	Cape Town
France	1997	36-32	Paris
France	1997	52-10	Paris
England	1997	28-11	Twickenham
Scotland	1997	68-10	Murrayfield
Ireland	1998	37-13	Bloomfontein
Ireland	1998	39-0	Pretoria
Wales	1997	96-13	Pretoria
England	1997	18-0	Cape Town
Australia	1997	14-13	Paris
New Zealand	1997	13-3	Wellington
New Zealand	1997	24-23	Durban
Australia	1997	29-15	Johannesburg
Wales	1997	28-20	Wentley
Scotland	1997	35-10	Murrayfield
Ireland	1997	27-13	Lansdowne Road
England	1997	7-13	Twickenham

right time. Larder has been drilling England in defence for the last year and reckons it was because Luger was co-ordinating on his positional play and getting back behind the ball that the threat was snuffed out.

Larder praised his charges. "It is a tremendous achievement for England to have conceded just one try in 160 minutes against two of the best sides in the world. It is something the boys can be justly proud of."

And that crowd, the atmosphere. It's like Manchester United playing at Old Trafford."

The shift in emphasis over the last month that the England squad has been together has been significant. Larder said: "In that time we have spent almost 50 per cent of our training time working on our defence, where previously it would have been 10 per cent."

And defence is not just about putting in tackles and making

Mallett's men prove to be all fumble and no kicks

BY TIM GLOVER

FOR SOUTH AFRICA it was the Test too far. With no hint of false modesty they had marketed this whistle stop adventure "The Grand Slam Tour". England slammed the door in their faces, rudely interrupting the Springbok quest for a place in history. When it came to the crunch, South Africa produced their most inept display since their enlightened coach, Nick Mallett, was appointed last year. On Saturday, when they ran into a combine harvester called the English pack, they ran out of ideas, ran out of luck.

They probably made more mistakes than in the other 17 victorious Tests put together. At times they looked the more sophisticated side but ultimately they froze. They couldn't handle it, literally.

The lack of continuity was down to the fact that the Springboks repeatedly fumbled possession. It was impossible to

keep count of the number of times they knocked the ball on. Was this in any way down to the futility of the English tackling? Mallett was asked. He simply laughed.

In the post-mortem, Gary Teichmann, the Springbok captain, was searching for clues. "There were so many errors," he said. "Perhaps we were trying to off-load the ball too often in the tackle, making one or two passes too many. On this occasion it didn't work for us. On another day it might have."

It looked so promising for the Rainbow Warriors when Bobby Skinstad, with a sublime pass, released Pieter Rossouw in the seventh minute and the left wing feigned to go inside before taking Nick Beal on the outside. "The tries stemmed from a long pass but the key was that we had second or third phase

possession," Teichmann said. "For the rest of the game our attacks ended at the first tackle. "We failed to take an opportunity of a lifetime but I believe we've achieved something really special over the last 15 months."

Nobody would argue with that. It took the All Blacks of Brian Lochore, another outstanding back-row forward, four years from the mid-Sixties to compile their record of 17 international victories.

Fate decreed that South Africa, who had beaten England at Twickenham last year and again at Cape Town this

summer, would put their record on the line in one of the ultimate tests of fortitude. "We knew that England was the best of the four home nations," Mallett said. "When we looked at the schedule we knew that if we came to the last game unbeaten it would be a tough call. England are extremely well organised in defence and it was always going to be desperately close. Facing England at Twickenham is one

of the hardest fixtures left in international rugby."

Despite the crushing disappointment, the Springboks were magnanimous in defeat. In mitigation they might have cited exhaustion as a factor; they have had almost 11 months of continuous top-grade rugby. "Fatigue was not an issue," Mallett said. "I don't agree with the supposition that we ran out of gas. We have no excuses. The better team won."

Percy Montgomery - what, by the way, has happened to the world's most dangerous full-back? - missed a kick that, in golfing terms, would have been no more than an 18-inch putt. Matt Dawson also missed a sitter, but crucially landed two second-half penalties that broke the stalemate.

Whenever South Africa were awarded a penalty within kicking range they seemed unsure whether to go for the points. Considering they knew this was

whose bodies could withstand only so much," the *Sunday Times* said. "The Springboks looked fatigued and finished. And they were."

It was a desperately disappointing end to a season in which South Africa scaled so many heights. Yesterday they were witness to a wreckage.

South African newspapers blamed fatigue for the defeat. "It was a shattering failure at the final hurdle and ultimately confirmed the folly of trying to draw too much from players

let has proven to be the most successful Springbok coach ever. And our sponsors continue their generous support."

South African newspapers blamed fatigue for the defeat. "It was a shattering failure at the final hurdle and ultimately confirmed the folly of trying to draw too much from players

achievement," Sarfu said in a newspaper advertisement.

The ad, which was headlined "Seventeen Consecutive Wins - Sorry," featured a photograph of full-back Percy Montgomery with a hand over his forehead.

"We're still the undisputed world champions. Nick Mal-

let has proven to be the most successful Springbok coach ever. And our sponsors continue their generous support."

South African newspapers blamed fatigue for the defeat. "It was a shattering failure at the final hurdle and ultimately confirmed the folly of trying to draw too much from players

going to be a close encounter, any chance to put some points on the board should have been taken. Near the end of the first half, when they won a penalty close to the England posts, Henry Honiball kicked for an attacking position to the left-hand corner but only succeeded in putting the ball dead. Yet a couple of minutes later, from a far more difficult position, Teichmann asked Montgomery to kick for goal and he missed.

"You realise," a South African reporter told Mallett, "that when you get home you're going to get mauled by the press."

"I'm looking forward," the 42-year-old former No 8 replied, "to meeting the guy who is going to try to maul me."

All good things must come to an end and with the pressure of the record removed, Mallett and the Springboks can start the new year afresh.

Arsenal's allure motivates Moyes

DAVID MOYES found out what FA Cup fever is all about when the third-round draw was made last night and paired his team with Arsenal.

The Preston manager was planning a quiet meal out with his wife and children when North End were picked to face the Gunners in one of the most intriguing pairings of the round.

"The pub just erupted when the draw was made," the former Celtic centre-half said. "It's the biggest game the club has had for years and I could tell straight away what it means to our fans."

Moyes and his ambitious

BY ALAN NIXON

club could pick up a small fortune from the tie against the holders, with a sell-out 21,000 crowd expected and perhaps live television revenue as well. However, Preston are going all out to reach the First Division and Moyes said: "I hope this does not take away from our main job of promotion. But on the plus side it will keep the players on their toes and desperate to make the team for the Arsenal tie."

Manchester United, the winners in 1996, have an attractive home encounter with Middlesbrough, managed by the former

Old Trafford stalwart Bryan Robson, in one of two all-Premiership ties. United have been installed by bookmakers as the 5-1 favourites for the Cup.

Leeds United, currently in

third place in the Premiership, must face a non-League team, with the winners of the Rushden & Diamonds against Doncaster Rovers replay next week lying in wait.

Chelsea, the 1997 winners and the joint second favourites at 6-1 with Arsenal, are also forced to travel to lower-league opposition in Oldham Athletic or Brentford.

Southport, one of two non-League clubs definitely in the third round, were drawn at home to the winners of the Leyton Orient against Kingstonian replay. The other Yeovil Town, along with Southport the outsiders at 1,000-1, must travel to Cardiff City, the Third Division leaders.

In the other all-Premiership tie, Charlton Athletic must make a swift return to Blackburn Rovers, where they lost in the league on Saturday. Kevin Keegan takes his Fulham side to Southampton, where he had a spell as a player late in his distinguished career.

Port Vale will take a break

from their battle to stay in the First Division with a home tie against Liverpool in a game that provides Gerard Houllier's team with plenty of potential for embarrassment.

Hull City, bottom of the Nationwide League but unexpected winners at Luton on Saturday, have a splendid reward: a trip to Birmingham to face the Premiership leaders, Aston Villa. It will be a big test for Warren Joyce, the Tigers' new player-manager, and his side, but at least it should earn them some much-needed funds to put towards strengthening their squad and trying to stay out of the Conference.

Snodin plans for Belle epoch

BY JON CULLEY

Doncaster Rovers
Rushden & Diamonds

DONCASTER MAY not reach the third round of the FA Cup but hearing their name in the draw was enough to fill Ian Snodin with pride. The last time they made it, in the 1984-85 season, he was the 21-year-old star of a memorable victory over Queen's Park Rangers, who at the time represented quite a scalp.

But there is more to it than that. Last March, playing at Scarborough but living in Doncaster, Snodin stood on the terraces among a paltry crowd of 739 spectators watching Rovers lose 2-0 to Barnet, their demotion to the Conference by then inevitable. It was a grim night, punctuated by the latest in a long-running series of demonstrations against the then chairman, Ken Richardson. "It broke my heart," Snodin said. "I've been a Rovers fan since I was a lad and like everyone else I thought the club was dying."

At 5,396, Saturday's attendance was the largest at Belle Vue for four years. "It just shows what is possible," Snodin said. "This is a football town and a successful team will bring the crowds back. When we beat Queen's Park Rangers in 1984 we took 10,000 to Everton in the next round. That's the level of support we could have again."

Snodin became player-manager in August - with brother Glynn as No 2 - as the Richardson era ended and control passed to John Ryan, a Cheshire businessman but a Doncaster boy whose affection for Rovers has not dimmed. Ryan remembers the Belle Vue owl, a bird which, according to local legend, resided in the roof of a stand long since pulled down and flew around the ground, illuminated by the floodlights, whenever Rovers scored. On Saturday, Ryan brought along a pottery owl, hoping to somehow recreate the magic. "It didn't bring us a win but we didn't lose," Ryan said. "I'll take it to the replay and see if it does the trick there."

Approval for Ryan and for Snodin has already pushed Doncaster's Conference crowds up to 3,200, double last season's average. And this is despite a record of 11 defeats in 18 matches that has seen their team entrenched at the bottom of the table. Snodin has recruited such luminaries as Steve Nicol, who won virtually every honour available with Liverpool, and the well-travelled Tommy Wright to complement his own experience, but as yet they have not got to grips with their new environment.

"We keep playing well and I keep saying 'maybe this will be the result that turns the corner', but the table doesn't lie," Snodin said. "If anything, the standard in the Conference is higher than in the Third Division. You only have to look at how Macclesfield came out of the Conference and went straight through to promotion, and how Halifax are doing this season."

Encouragingly for him, his conviction that the corner will be turned is shared by Brian Talbot, the manager of Rushden & Diamonds, who have become a major Conference force thanks to the investment from the Dr Marten's shoes empire of Max Griggs. "They're a good side," Talbot said. "They won't have any problems."

Presumably, Talbot was excluding the replay at Nene Park tomorrow week from that assessment. Despite the absence of Adrian Foster and Darren Collins, Rushden's two leading goalscorers, Rovers failed to make home advantage count. They enjoyed plenty of possession but created few clear chances, a bobbling long-range effort from the full-back Simon Shaw taking them closest to a goal.

By contrast, Rushden forced Andy Woods into several good saves, notably twice to deny Ray Warburton in the first half, when Michael Nelson, Nicol was magnificent at the back for Rovers, but with their full strike power restricted Rushden will be favoured to go through.

Doncaster Rovers (4-4-2): Woods; Warren, Nicol, Sutherland, Shaw, Goodwin, Penney, I. Snodin (Beckett, 80). Substitutes not used: Martin, George, Jones (84).

Rushden & Diamonds (4-4-2): Gayle; Wood, McIlhenny, Wilson, Sutherland; Archer, West, Higgs, Sainsbury; not used: Foster, Harlin, Hamer, Brady, Rodwell.

Referee: S. Mathison (Stockport). Bookings: Doncaster Snodin, Sutherland; Rushden West, Underwood, McIlhenny. Match of the week: Nicol.

Attendance: 5,396.

Patmore prefers a quiet life

THE DAYS of non-League heroes emerging from victorious dressing-rooms awash with ale and adrenalin to predict further giant-killing glory appear to be over, if Yeovil's goalscorers are anything to go by. Warren Patmore, having wreaked his revenge on the manager who twice sacked him, was not giving interviews; Steve Thompson, a perennial Cup marksman, was off home to look after the kids while his wife went out on the town.

It was not that there was anything lacking in the celebratory air at Hush Park. A bumper 5,218 crowd roared the Conference side through to the third round, the 12th time they have reached that revered landmark, producing a top-class conga. The home dressing-room was full of good cheer - but the Match of the Day cameramen did rather have to persuade them to change their chant from "Mag-al-uf" to "Wembur-ley" as they captured the good old magic of the Cup.

Yeovil's history in the oldest cup competition is legendary and Colin Lipplatt's players lived up to this sense of tradition by outplaying their Second Division opponents in the first half to instigate the uprooting of their 18th League scalp.

The players' immediate reward, apart from a steaming pot of tea being wheeled into the changing-room, was the promise of a holiday later in the season. The preferred destination appeared to be a unanimous choice.

Thompson's immediate destination was back home to Plymouth to watch the Cup highlights with his children Daniel and Callum, his wife already having booked the night out for her Christmas bash. Yet the 35-year-old, three times a Wembley winner with Wycombe Wanderers and Woking, had clearly sensed further drama was at hand, scoring in a chaotic scramble. Patmore's

BY PETER LANSLEY

Yeovil Town 2
Northampton Town 0

header was parried, Stott's follow-up effort was blocked on the line and as most awaited a verdict on a possible handball Thompson drove the ball home.

Injury-stricken Northampton looked a team on a hiding to nothing. Once the substitute Chris Freestone arrived, the chances started flowing, though only the hero against the Hammers will know how he fell over when John Frain's 60th-minute centre found him unmarked at the far post.

Nine minutes from time Patmore's big moment arrived. Rejected by Ian Atkins both at Cambridge and at Northampton, the 27-year-old scratch golfer was put through by Tony Foulmer and, though his first effort was parried by Billy Turley, he putted in the rebound.

"Warren was caught between becoming a pro golfer and staying a pro footballer when I arrived at Northampton with the club one off the foot of the League," recalled Atkins, after suffering his first Cup defeat by a non-League side. "He certainly looks a more accomplished player today. Good luck to him."

Patmore, a scorer in each round of Yeovil's latest Cup adventure, and Thompson, Woking's hero in the 1-1 draw at Coventry two years ago, savoured their 15 minutes of fame quietly. Perhaps they are saving their right on the tiles for after the third round.

Goalkeepers: Thompson (1-0), Patmore (81).
Northampton (15-3-2): Turley, Gibb, Wilkinson, Hill, Sampson, Frain, Hunter (Freestone, 57), Hunt (Warner, 86), Savage, Corrie, Lee (Pugh, 69). Substitutes not used: Parrish, Woodman (84).
Referee: P. Richards (Preston). Bookings: Northampton: Hill, Lee, Hunt, Gibb, Freestone. Man of the match: Thompson. Attendance: 5,218.



Leyton Orient's Matthew Beall pursues Kingstonian's Kevin Ratray in their FA Cup second-round tie yesterday

Allsport

MacKenzie keeps Kingstonian at bay

KINGSTONIAN BATTLED their way into last night's FA Cup third-round draw after holding Leyton Orient to a goalless draw on their Kingsmeadow pitch yesterday.

The Football Conference title-chasers were in fact denied a win only by the woodwork, which twice saved their Third Division opponents from east London. The hosts enjoyed the majority of possession throughout and enjoyed a corner count of 10-2 in their favour.

The Orient goalkeeper, Chris

BY RUPERT METCALF

MacKenzie, denied the Surrey side on countless occasions to take the match to a replay at Brisbane Road tomorrow week.

The best chance of the match came five minutes from the end, when Matt Crossley's shot hit the woodwork with his tricks and turns. But not even his efforts were enough to give the non-League team and their manager, the former Woking stalwart Geoff Chapple, the win they deserved.

The only non-League sides

definitely through to the third round are Yeovil Town, who beat Northampton, and Southport. The Merseyside club, who

reached Wembley in the FA Umbro Trophy last term, maintained their good cup-tie form by winning 2-1 at the Third Division promotion-chasers Mansfield Town.

A Dave Gamble penalty and a Brian Ross goal secured victory for Southport, whose 43-year-old player-manager Paul Fletcher, once of Manchester City and Luton, played for over an hour as a substitute.

Stevenage Borough failed to duplicate last year's magnificent exploits in the Cup, when they eventually went out in a fourth-round replay at Newcastle. Their run was short-lived this season - a crushing 4-1 defeat at Lincoln City means they can now concentrate on the Conference and the Trophy.

Luton Town, knocked out in the quarter-finals of the Worthington Cup last week at Sunderland, tamely surrendered to the Football League's basement side, Hull City, at Knaves Road. Rob Dewhurst headed the winner for the Tigers.

The Celtic chairman Fergus McCann yesterday threatened to sue Marko Viduka after the Australian player walked out on the Scottish champions without kicking a ball.

The 23-year-old flew back to his native Melbourne claiming he was "depressed" and leaving Celtic in no doubt that he was giving up football just days after his £3m transfer from Croatia Zagreb.

McCann also indicated that he will be withholding full payment from Croatia Zagreb until the matter is fully resolved.

"The club is now most concerned about certain aspects of

the transaction regarding Marko Viduka," McCann said. "We will be seeking clarification over the next few days from various parties, including Croatia Zagreb."

As to Viduka's claim that he was quitting because he was "not in the right state of mind to play football," McCann said: "It is a sudden problem. There was no indication from the player, Croatia Zagreb or IMG [Viduka's agents] of any psychological problem."

The problem only came to light when the manager, Josef Venglos, and club doctor, Jack Mulhern, visited Viduka at his

hotel on Saturday. "We offered medical counselling, and to bring his parents over from Australia as well as giving him an extended Christmas break but Marko rejected all these offers. He said he didn't want to play football," McCann said.

"Marko said he knew he was giving up a wonderful opportunity and that his decision would wreck his career."

"There are question marks surrounding the fee and where it is going. There is a lot more to this than Marko suddenly saying he has psychological problems."

Hadji, Barcelona's Patrick Khivert won a debatable penalty after 88 minutes when he fell awkwardly in the box. Rivaldo sent Jacques Songo'o the wrong way with his spot-kick, but two minutes later the home side struck again. Three defenders on the line failed to clear a Tuti Flores cross and Fran Gonzalez was unmarked to score the winner.

In Germany, Bayern Munich, who face Manchester United on Wednesday, drew 2-2 at VfL Bochum on Friday.

Adam twice unsettles Celtic McCann threatens to sue after £3m Viduka quits

CELTIC'S REVIVAL came to a shuddering halt as Hearts derailed their attempt to record a third consecutive victory. Wins over Rangers and Motherwell had brought Dr Josef Venglos' side back in touch with Rangers, the league leaders, and after Dunfermline's draw at Inver on Saturday, there was a chance for Celtic to trim the gap to two points. They failed spectacularly to make an impression on the game until the last 15 minutes when Phil O'Donnell scored to give them some hope.

Until then the Celtic midfield was over-run by the home side, who might have recorded a more comfortable victory.

Hearts went in at the break

BY DAVID MCKINNEY

Heart of Midlothian 2
Celtic 1

with a single goal advantage thanks to Stéphane Adam. Vincent Guerin slipped past a challenge on the right hand side before heading for the goal line and his cross was headed into the bottom corner by the Frenchman. At that stage the home side were worthy of their lead with Jim Hamilton denied in the 25th minute by Jonathon Gould, the Celtic goalkeeper, who also reacted brilliantly in the 35th minute to push away a volley from Dave McPherson.

Within three minutes of the re-start Hearts increased their

lead. Hamilton on the right crossed low for Adam, who flicked the ball home as the Celtic defence stood claiming for offside.

The Celtic response was muted on a night when they struggled to define fluency in their game. A long-range effort by Alan Stubbs was too straight and too easy for the goalkeeper and before long Hearts again troubled the Celtic defence. Thomas Fogel volleyed over the bar and then Gould brilliantly flicked away an Adam shot.

In the 73rd minute Celtic resurrected their chances when a Henrik Larsson cross fell to O'Donnell, who slammed the ball home from six yards. The

same player shot narrowly over and Stéphane Mahe had a close-range effort blocked by Gilles Rousset. For Celtic it proved too little, too late.

The Hearts manager, Jim Jefferies, later revealed they had rejected an offer for the winger Neil McCann, thought to have been made by Rangers.

"It is out of our hands when it reaches a certain level. He has a clause if there was an offer at a certain level then it is his decision," said Jefferies. Goals: Adam (37) 1-0; (49) 2-0; O'Donnell (74) 2-1.

Hearts (4-4-2): Rousset; McPherson, Weir, Ritchie, Mayrhoth; Fogel, Guerin, (Loche, 83), Murray, Rutherford, Hamilton (Holmes, 80), Adam (Juanjo, 87).

Celtic (4-4-2): Gould; Boyd, Stubbs, Haggis, Hooper, Riech, Donnelly, Lambert; O'Donnell, Larsson, Morwick (Barron, 60). Referee: M. McCurry (Glasgow).

made his name last season. Mallorca's George Weah and Brazil's Leonardo, with a superb volley, scored Milan's other goals to keep their club in fourth place, a point behind Roma and Parma, who both won their matches on Saturday.

Real Mallorca climbed two points clear at the top of the Spain's Primera Division on Saturday as the champions, Barcelona, slipped to their third successive defeat and other leading teams dropped points.

Hector Cuper's unfancied

Mallorca ground out a 1-0 victory over Real Betis thanks to a goal eight minutes from the end by Dani Garcia. Celta Vigo, who entertain Liverpool in the UEFA Cup tomorrow, dropped to third place after being held 1-1 at Salamanca.

Deportivo La Coruña, who are now second, pulled the pressure on Barcelona's Dutch coach, Louis van Gaal, as they snatched a late 2-1 victory at home to the Catalans.

Deportivo took the lead after 76 minutes through Mustapha

Hadji. Barcelona's Patrick Khivert won a debatable penalty after 88 minutes when he fell awkwardly in the box. Rivaldo sent Jacques Songo'o the wrong way with his spot-kick, but two minutes later the home side struck again. Three defenders on the line failed to clear a Tuti Flores cross and Fran Gonzalez was unmarked to score the winner.

In Germany, Bayern Munich, who face Manchester United on Wednesday, drew 2-2 at VfL Bochum on Friday.

Zamorano off as Inter's new coach made to sweat

A GOAL from Michael Silvestre spared Internazionale's new coach, Mircea Lucescu, a disastrous start with an injury-time equaliser at Vicenza in Italy's Serie A yesterday, while Juventus' defeat by Lazio was their second successive loss at home.

Silvestre's late goal may have cancelled out Pasquale Luiso's 20th-minute penalty for Vicenza, but it did not banish the memory of Inter losing their nerve, with the Nigerian international Taribo West

EUROPEAN ROUND-UP

angrily throwing his shirt to the ground when substituted, and the Chilean centre-forward, Ivan Zamorano, dismissed for kicking an opponent.

In a desperate 67th-minute move to save the game against a Vicenza side who had two men sent off, Lucescu sent on Ronaldo, supposedly being rested before Wednesday's crucial Champions' League match at Sturm Graz. Three minutes

into injury time, the Brazilian's free-kick provided the ammunition from which Silvestre fired Inter level.

Inter's hard-earned point was enough to edge them into fifth place ahead of Juventus, who conceded an 81st-minute goal to Zamorano's Chilean strike partner, Marcelo Salas.

Juventus, who must beat Roma to have a chance of qualifying for the quarter-finals of the European Cup, have not won in five league matches and

have failed to score in their last four - their worst run under coach Marcello Lippi.

Both Juventus and Inter, who finished first and second in last season's Serie A, are seven points adrift of the leaders, Fiorentina. The pace-setters halted Bologna's 16-match unbeaten run with a 1-0 home victory on Saturday.

Milan's German striker Oliver Bierhoff brought his eight-match goal drought to a halt with his side's third in a 3-0 win over Udinese, the club where he

made his name last season. Mallorca's George Weah and Brazil's Leonardo, with a superb volley, scored Milan's other goals to keep their club in fourth place, a point behind Roma and Parma, who both won their matches on Saturday.

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1	Aston Villa	15
2	Manchester United	16
3	Leeds	16
4	Arsenal	16
5	West Ham	16
6	Chelsea	16
7	Manchester City	16
8	Sheff Wed	16
9	Charlton	16
10	Coventry	16
11	Blackburn	16
12	Nottingham Forest	16
13	Southampton	16
14	Sunderland	16
15	Ipswich	16
16	Watford	16
17	Northwich	16
18	Bolton	16
19	Huddersfield	16
20	Birmingham	16
21	Bradford City	16
22	Sheff Utd	16
23	Wolves	16
24	Grimsby	16
25	West Brom	16
26	Barnsley	16
27	Crystal Palace	16
28	Bury	16
29	Stockport	16
30	QPR	16
31	Portsmouth	16
32	Swindon	16
33	Oxford	16
34	Tranmere	16
35	Port Vale	16
36	Bristol City	16
37	Crewe	16

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Villa survive test of their character

IT WAS surely just coincidence but, given John Gregory's unorthodox management style, it could have been a cheeky bit of one-upmanship. No sooner had Alex Ferguson finished deflecting questions about the loss of Brian Kidd than Gregory rubbed it in by sending his own No 2, Steve Harrison, to represent him in the press conference. It was if to say: "You may have 19 internationals, but you don't have an assistant manager."

It was appropriate enough because, while Manchester United had been wrestling with the disruption caused by Kidd's departure, Aston Villa had clearly been reaping the value of a good No 2. United's visit represented the biggest test of their three-month reign as Premiership leaders and there was evidence that Harrison's well-known qualities as a joker, and less publicised expertise as a defensive coach, had both been in use last week.

From the man on the Tannoy, who sounded in awe of United's reputation at half-time, to the players,



GLENN MOORE

who had not even scored against them for three years, it was clear that respect was the order of the day. Lee Hendrie confessed he had been "so excited I couldn't sleep last night" and even Dwight Yorke was accorded a generous greeting before the game - and was less abused than David Beckham during it.

Thus, when United went ahead after 46 minutes, one could have forgiven Villa for thinking the game was up. Instead they produced a vibrant

response which deserved the resulting 1-1 draw, even if it did take a deflected goal to secure the point.

"It was an important game for us, particularly the young lads," said Gareth Southgate, the Aston Villa captain. "United are used to playing these games and we aren't. Every match they play the opposition are really fired up. You have to play in these games to gain that experience and it will do us the world of good, we came through it well."

Villa were also much more secure at the back than in recent matches. They had begun the season playing a compact 3-5-2 and, in their first 10 games, conceded just three goals. Then Dion Dublin arrived and they switched to playing three up front, with Paul Merson playing off the front pair.

Though they scored as many goals (11) in the next four games as they had in the first 10, they conceded nine. On Saturday Gregory and Harrison, to general approval from the players, reverted to 3-5-2, and Villa looked much more secure.

"It was important today to be solid," added Southgate, "but we didn't create any less, which was pleasing. The midfield did a great job going forward and getting back." One of those midfielders, Alan Thompson, who impressed on his recall, added hopefully: "I think playing three in midfield is where we are best and we should see more of that system."

Whether Villa made enough chances is debatable. They had more pressure than United, but did not create that much. Hendrie and Ian Taylor got in each others' way after one flowing first-half move, Ugo Ehiogu went close with two headers from corners, and there were several pots from the edge of the box but Peter Schmeichel was rarely tested in open play.

Gregory had admitted beforehand: "I've always known that playing a two-man midfield with Paul [Merson] behind the strikers was a risk, but while three men in the middle makes us rock solid we lose something offensively. We're not as creative or free-scoring." Since de-

fences win championships, though, Villa may stay with the present system - especially if Thompson, Taylor and Hendrie can increase their goal threat.

It is certainly the shape likely to be seen at Chelsea on Wednesday and probably at home to Arsenal on Sunday, though Merson will be doing his utmost to be fit for that game. On Saturday, with the wing-backs pushed on, it gave Villa a numerical supremacy in midfield that United only rectified by bringing on Nicky Butt for Andy Cole. On another day, not with half an eye on Wednesday's European tie with Bayern Munich, they might have responded by pushing their full-backs on.

It would have made for a more attractive game though, after Paul Scholes' well-taken goal for United, from Cole's fine cross, the match improved immensely. Villa deserved Julian Joachim's equaliser for their subsequent hero even if the goal was fortuitous, the ball looping over Schmeichel after hitting Denis Irwin's shin.

Villa finished stronger and were thus left ruing a missed opportunity. United departed happily with a point and, equally importantly, a clean bill of health. Ryan Giggs had a half and may start against Bayern, especially as Jesper Blomqvist was anonymous.

Villa, like United's other Premiership challengers, will be cheering them on. "I'd like them to go through for the good of our game," said Southgate, "but from a selfish point of view I want them involved as long as possible anyway. I think they deserve to go through, the way they've been playing, and I believe they have more than enough to do so."

While Ferguson prepares for Bayern without his right-hand man, Gregory should have a new task for his No 2. A lack of depth is often dismissed and, while United had Giggs, Butt, Teddy Sheringham and Ronny Johnsen on the bench Villa had the unheralded Simon Grayson and four unknowns. This, it transpired, was partly due to Gregory finding that his

much-vaunted "English-only" policy does not prevent internal disharmony. While injuries (Mark Bosnich, Merson) and suspension (Stan Collymore) accounted for three senior players, three others, Mark Draper, the transfer-listed Riccardo Scimeca, and Gary Charles, who is said to have been involved in a training-ground dispute with Gregory, were "out of favour".

This may be inevitable in a strong squad, but it is unhealthy for a championship-chasing one. One of a good No 2's tasks is to act as a buffer between the manager and disaffected players and, with a demanding week ahead, Harrison may have to brush down his joke book.

Goals: Scholes (19-0-1); Joachim (55-1). Aston Villa (3-5-2): Gales, Ehiogu, Southgate, Barry, Watson, Hendrie, Taylor, Thompson, Wright, John, Dublin. Substitutes not used: Rachel (19), Leacock, Vennart, Ferrer, Grayson. Manchester United (4-4-2): Schmeichel, Brown, G. Neville, Stam, Irwin, Beckham, Keane, Scholes, Simeola (55-1); Yorke, Cole (Butt, 69). Substitutes not used: Van der Gouw (19), Johnson, Sheringham, M. Riley (19). Bookings: Aston Villa: Ehiogu. Manchester United: Neville, Yorke, Irwin. Man of the match: Thompson and Hendrie. Attendance: 39,241.

Kidd may be the man for all seasons

BY DAVE HADFIELD

Blackburn Rovers 1
Charlton Athletic 0

AT 49 and counting, Brian Kidd still looks like the slightly older brother of the fresh-faced youth who looped that header over the Benfica goal-keeper 30 years ago.

That might indicate that, at a Premiership club, it is the No 1, rather than the No 2, who is paid to do the hulk of the worrying.

In that case, it will be instructive to do a "before and after" - comparing one of the many pictures taken of Kidd at Ewood Park on Saturday with a portrait, say, two years down the road.

Despite this urgently needed victory, Blackburn remain the sort of side that could give their new manager all the things he currently lacks - grey hair, a furrowed brow, bags under the eyes. He got a taste of the strain they could put him under even as they secured a morale-boosting win.

Kidd, not scheduled to take control until today, had planned to observe quietly from the stand. It took all of 16 minutes of watching Rovers perform with little pattern and less confidence to send him scurrying down to the touchline.

It looked little better from down there, but it at least gave him chance to get involved to an extent that brought a warning from Graham Poll.

Although he tried to confuse the referee by changing coats for the second half, Kidd's vocal contribution apparently extracted a confession from Poll that it must be him and not Alex Ferguson who has been responsible for the notorious racket from the bench at Old Trafford.

The overriding impression of Kidd before, during and after the match was one of a barely containable enthusiasm. His ability with players on the training ground is well enough known, but he attacked aspects of the job for which some thought he would be less suited with equal relish.

One of the question marks put up against him concerns his ability to deal with the media spotlight. But his performance in that department was all the more impressive for the self-deprecating humour that accompanied it.

"Nobody wanted the coach to be rubbing his gums at United," he said, employing an old Collyhurst expression to explain his apparent reticence in the past. But morose in the limelight? Averse to having a chat and a laugh with those outside his immediate orbit? Not a bit of it.



Striker Kevin Davies beats the tackle of Charlton's Richard Rufus to score his first goal for Blackburn Rovers (above) and earn their enthusiastic manager Brian Kidd (below) a victory in his first match in charge of the struggling Ewood Park side

Not that Blackburn's current situation is any laughing matter, even with Saturday's three points boosting them off the foot of the table. "From Premier League champions in 1995 to this - there's obviously been a problem. But you only get jobs when people are having a rough time."

Despite the encouragement he drew from the efforts of young players like Damien Duff, David Dunn and, especially, the enterprising Damien Johnson, Kidd saw enough to suggest why times have been rough.

Even opponents as badly out of the winning habit as Charlton could

have left Ewood with all three points, given an equal share of luck. Blackburn's Alan Fettes, a third-choice goalkeeper called up on the morning of the match because John Flann was suffering from concussion, was far busier than Sasa Ilic.

Unfortunately for Alan Curbishley's peace of mind, Ilic made a complete mess of the one real save he was called on to make, letting Kevin Davies' shot slip under his body with 15 minutes to play.

It was a fluke way for the Davies to score his first Blackburn goal since his £7.5m transfer from Southampton. He would not even have been on the field if Kevin

Gallagher had not succumbed to a hamstring injury late in the first half, and he showed no sign of becoming a match-winner until his speculative strike made Kidd's first afternoon a happy one.

Kidd admitted that it was with one eye on the calendar that he found Blackburn's advances so irresistible. "I think you can leave it too late," he said of his decision to become his own boss. "I don't want to die wondering. It's been well documented that I'm 50 in the summer. I hope I get some good presents."

It might have been a few months early, but this could count as a down payment. Other gifts will

have to be worked for - starting on Kidd's natural terrain of the training pitch today.

"That's what I feel I'm here for. I hope they don't want a PR man," he said. The early evidence is that he could be equally effective at that side of the job.

Goals: Davies (75-1-0). Blackburn Rovers (4-4-2): Fettes, Croft, Hendrie, Duff, Duff, Blake, Gallagher (Davies, 41), Substitutes not used: Marcolin, Taylor, Williams (19-1). Charlton Athletic (4-4-2): Ilic, Mills, Rufus, York, Powell, Robinson, Kinsella, Redfern, Mortimer (Newton, 31); Hunt, Mendonca (Jones, 66). Substitutes not used: Barnes, Tier, Royce (19). Referee: G. Poll (Tring). Bookings: Blackburn: Dunn, Charlton: Redfern, Kinsella, York. Man of the match: Johnson. Attendance: 22,569.



Gunners keep firing blanks

BY PETER CONCHIE

Derby County 0
Arsenal 0

be very difficult. They are the symbols of the real Arsenal, the Keowns, Boulds, Winterburns and Dixons, and they will have to stop one day. When they have their backs to the wall, they are able to respond with tremendous commitment.

No one showed this spirit more than Steve Bould. Without the Stoke-born colossus, Arsenal probably would have lost, and his performance was the highlight of a day short of them. His distribution and positioning were superb, his dominance of poor Dean Sturridge complete, even though he limped through the last 30 minutes. Ray Parlour, too, had an impressive, typically industrious game. Anelka, although sharp and quick off the mark, too often received the ball with his back to goal to use his pace effectively.

Martin Keown also evidently enjoyed his afternoon. "People like myself and Ray Parlour, we have to show our mettle, and we're enjoying it," he said. "It's a case of trying to keep clean

sheets at the back and hoping we can snatch a goal. It's not so different from the George Graham era."

Goalless it may have been, but Derby had chances to score in the first half. One arose after Lee Dixon uncharacteristically pulled out of a challenge with Stefano Eraso on the edge of the Derby box, prompting a 50-yard charge upfield by Lars Bohinen which ended with a powerful shot wide. Paulo Wanchope had a fine 20-yard shot saved well by David Seaman after 10 minutes, but this was followed by a misguided attempt to chest down a far-post cross instead of stooping for a header.

On the whistle the weary Arsenal players trudged over to applaud their vocal fans. After scoring one goal in the last seven and a half hours, you could almost imagine a new North Bank chant: "Nil-nil to the Arsenal, nil-nil to the Arsenal."

Derby County (5-3-2): Poom, Dorcas, Laurson, Caronari, Delap, Prior, Powell, Eraso (Harper, 72), Caronari, Sturridge, Wanchope. Substitutes not used: Hodge (19), Schmeichel, Carlsby, Elliott. Arsenal (4-4-2): Seaman, Keown, Bould, Dixon, Wren (Bia Mente, 71), Parlour, Grimsdell, Gossie (Lungberg, 67), Anelka, Overmars. Substitutes not used: M'Wanga (19), Upson, Caballero. Referee: M. Reed (West Heath). Bookings: Derby: Powell, Bohinen. Arsenal: Vivas. Man of the match: Bould. Attendance: 25,018.

WHILE THIS season has already seen the transfers of three multimillion pound strikers, namely Dwight Yorke, Dion Dublin and Duncan Ferguson, Wimbledon, typically, could on Saturday night boast a match-winner in Jason Euell, who was free and is not leaving.

Euell scored both Wimbledon's goals as they fought back from the disadvantage of tired legs after their Worthington Cup win last midweek against Chelsea, which accounted for their lethargic start to the game. This problem was compounded by conceding a penalty early in the second half, as Chris Perry brought down Darren Huckerby, with Gary McAllister calmly converting.

Euell, 21, has been with the club since he was 13 and, when he signed professional terms three years ago, he was enticed by the effusive Wimbledon chairman, Sam Hamman, as being "better than Pelé."

Saddled with that, it might have been time for Euell to pack up and go home, and he also had an injury-affected time last season. He has recovered, however, to play in all but one of Wimbledon's league and Cup games this season.

Wimbledon's manager, Joe Kinnear, praised Euell for the marking job he did on Chelsea's Dennis Wise last week and he had every reason to praise him again on Saturday, after switching him to his natural striker's position for the second half in an astute tactical change.

Kinnear said: "Jason is Wimbledon through and through. He's on a six-year contract and he's going nowhere." The manager added that he had played Euell mostly in midfield recently to protect him, explaining: "Last season he was getting kicked about up front and was missing games through injury."

Euell had the simple job of scoring after 71 minutes, when Ben Thatcher's pass found him unmarked in the penalty box, and 13 minutes later he showed more of his technique when he controlled a Michael Hughes pass and beat Paul Williams in the same movement to again drive past Magnus Hedman for the winner.

BY CONRAD LEACH

Wimbledon 2
Coventry City 1

That turn of events did not leave Coventry's manager, Gordon Strachan, a happy man afterwards, as he dwelt on the combined effect of throwing away a lead, seeing a concussed Roland Nilsson carried off near the end, and what he deemed, sarcastically, "a unique performance by the referee". He added: "It will live in everyone's memory."

Strachan, who saw his team have most of the possession but fail to create many chances, felt that he should have had two more penalties, for a handball by Thatcher and for another foul on Huckerby. With Coventry suffering both their annual relegation fight and from the after-effects of losing Dublin, they could do with another striker - someone like Euell, perhaps?

Goals: McAllister (pen 54) 0-1, Euell (71) 1-1, Euell (84) 2-1. Wimbledon (4-4-2): Sullivan, Perry, Blackwell, Thatcher, Cunningham, Garske, Gossie, Hughes, And. not used: Head (19), Ebioku, Substitutes: Coventry City (4-4-2): Hedman, Williams, Shaw, Nilsson (Breen, 82), Edworthy, McAllister, Boateng, Iler, Froggatt, Whelan, Huckerby, Substitutes not used: Ogbonna (19), Jackson, Solovod, Dash. Referee: S. Dunn (Bristol). Bookings: Wimbledon: Sullivan, Euell, Coventry: Boateng, Edworthy. Man of the match: Euell. Attendance: 11,717.

But that does not explain why the side lying third in the Premiership on the back of a long unbeaten run could manage only one shot on target, a Frank Lampard drive in the dying moments that Leeds' teenage goalkeeper Paul Robinson punched away.

That was left to their manager, Harry Redknapp. "We were strangers to each other at the back," he said. "But Leeds were great - the best team we have played all season. They bossed us in every department."

Goals: Bowyer (81) 1-0; Bowyer (61) 2-0; Mollerup (68) 3-0; Hargreaves (79) 4-0. Mollerup (68) (3-1-4-2); Robinson, Woodgate, Hewitt (Whitland, 80), Hargreaves, Bowyer, (McPhail, 84), Substitutes not used: Weatherall, Muro Santos (19). West Ham United (4-4-2): Hargreaves, Pearce, Marry, Redknapp, Sinclair, Lampard, Lomas, Lazard, (McKusor, 55), Keller, Wright, Harrison. Substitutes not used: Breuker, Potts, Boylan, Forrest (19). Referee: J. Winter (Stockton-on-Tees). Sending-off: West Ham: Redknapp. Bookings: Leeds: Hargreaves, Hewitt, Hargreaves. Man of the match: Bowyer. Attendance: 36,320.

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THE INDEPENDENT
Monday 7 December 1998



Premiership football: Newcastle's substitute needs only 60 seconds to reward Gullit and frustrate North-east rivals

Boro denied by deft Dabizas

BY JOHN DONOGHUE

Middlesbrough 2
Newcastle United 2

IT ONLY takes a minute to change the face of any match, and Nicolas Dabizas proved it to prevent Middlesbrough from reclaiming their place among the group most seriously involved in the pursuit of the Premiership leaders, Aston Villa, yesterday.

Perhaps more in desperation than through any real sense of inspiration, Raul Gullit, the Newcastle manager, invited the Greek defender to help save this North-east derby, allotting just seven minutes for the task.

In the event, Dabizas required just a fraction of the time. Sixty seconds after replacing Warren Barton, he met a delightful cross from Laurent Charvet with a spring-heeled jump to head Newcastle level.

Yet surely, Bryan Robson, the Middlesbrough manager, should have known better than to expect anything else from such a home-grown contest. In all previous Premiership meetings with Newcastle, outnumbering four, they have come off second best. So, perversely, this may have to be considered a minor triumph.

In any event, it was the price they had to pay for failing to make the most of their second-half scoring opportunities, which at least helped distinguish Steve Harper as a goal-keeper of genuine promise.

The fightback certainly heartened Gullit who maintained: "This is another step forward for us. Two weeks ago I don't think we would even have scored one goal."

Though Charvet played a more obvious part in saving Newcastle's day, scoring one and making the other, Harper, who was only playing because of an injury to the Republic of Ireland's Shay Given, produced a string of impressive saves. They bought this largely unimpressive Newcastle team some time and thanks to Dabizas they were able to use it.

For a time, it seemed that the



The Middlesbrough striker Hamilton Ricard (left) gets to grips with Newcastle's Steve Howey during yesterday's North-east derby at the Riverside Stadium. Allsport

two female streakers were the ones destined to take the eye when they arrived unannounced just after half-time. And while there are those who continue to maintain that Paul Gascoigne's levels of discipline

remain a worry, he refused to be seduced when one of the space invaders set off in chase of him.

Gazza was autographing clothing, and simply ran for cover. If that was one surprise

then the other was that in a stadium so recently constructed under soil heating was not included amongst the facilities to help provide a more amenable surface. But then serious derby conflicts are meant to be jarring, bone hard affairs void of lasting subtlety. A perfect Riverside surface then.

Initially, Middlesbrough looked as though they had the necessary power and focus to make it a one-way affair, espe-

cially in view of Newcastle's frail travelling record. And when after a robust opening period they established a 17th-minute lead Gullit's dreadlocked hope of prolonging deadlock was in pieces.

Gascoigne, who cooed out his pre-match warm-up routine in the company of his two-year-old son Regan, demonstrated that the quality time spent with family members had not been wasted.

It was Gascoigne's quite de-

liberately placed corner which found his intended target. Andy Townsend, in plenty of space 14 yards out, Townsend looked as though he had enough time to consult the match programme before leisurely placing his first goal of the season beyond Harper.

It was hardly the start Gullit wanted, scarcely the one Harper needed in this first Premiership start. Yet any fears he had about what was to follow abated as Boro failed to build on their lead.

So it was of little surprise that Middlesbrough sacrificed their lead before the first half was over. No surprise, though, that the equaliser was not exactly the product of some fluent move. The outs and boils of it were far more common or garden, Middlesbrough making an awful meal of attempting to clear a Keith Gillespie corner. When, at the umpteenth attempt, Dean Gordon headed clear of his area, it was volleyed back spectacularly to give the French defender Charvet his first goal in the black and white of Newcastle.

The arrival of Stephen Glass, from the Newcastle bench, was designed to improve the service to Ferguson, but within 15 minutes of his arrival they were behind again to a scruffy sort of goal. Hamilton Ricard and Colin Cooper were behind the thrust and though Aaron Hughes got half a block on Cooper's shot the deflection served only to limit Harper's saving possibilities.

Not that he could be criticised having earlier performed minor wonders to deny Brian Deane and Townsend goals – and ultimately that helped Newcastle save the match.

Goals: Townsend (13) 1-0; Charvet (38) 1-1; Cooper (59) 2-1; Dabizas (83) 2-2. Middlesbrough (15-5-2): Schuster; Vickers, Cooper, Palmer, Fleming, Musco, Gascoigne (Stamp, 84), Townsend, Gordon, Ricard, Deane (Cook, 67). Substitute not used: Roberts (94). Newcastle United (4-4-2): Harper, Charvet, Hughes, Howey, Barton (Dabizas, 83); Gillespie, Lee, Speed, Solano (Glas, 45); Anderson (Duggan, 76), Ferguson. Substitutes not used: Hamann, Perez (94). Referee: U Rennie (Sheffield). Bookings: Middlesbrough: Vickers. Newcastle: Harper. Attendance: 34,629.

Leaver will confront the dissidents

PETER LEAVER, the Premier League's chief executive, will test the strength of his support after calling for a meeting yesterday following signs of dissent over his appointments of the former BSkyB executives, Sam Chisholm and David Chance, as media advisers.

Leaver, who has been in his position for 17 months, is said to be in the mood to resign unless there is a powerful expression of faith shown in him by the Premiership's governing body of 20 club chairmen when they meet

BY BILL PIERCE

for the second time in eight days, in London on Thursday.

The barrister and former deputy High Court judge made the unilateral decision to take the pair on board because of their expert knowledge which is certain to come in useful in negotiations for a new televised deal, due to take place in 2001.

Leaver believes that making the appointments without having to seek full consultation with

the clubs is within the remit of his job, just as it was to fight off the threat of a breakaway European Super League as proposed by Media Partners in the summer.

But six of the member clubs – believed to be Manchester United, Arsenal, Liverpool, Newcastle United, Leeds United and Wimbledon – are said to have expressed reservations about salary inducements offered to Chisholm and Chance.

And after a confrontation with the six, who demanded the

full details of the appointments after a meeting of the chairmen last Thursday, Leaver has felt obliged to calm the feud by calling another meeting.

He has refused to say how much Chisholm will be paid, but the six clubs were given the information last week provided they signed a confidentiality agreement.

Speculation puts the figure in excess of £1m, although it is also claimed that the pay award will be linked to the size of the television deal he can negotiate.

BSkyB's present domination of that particular marketplace is sure to make them front-runners and the inside knowledge that Chisholm and Chance must have of their former employers' made them, in Leaver's eyes, prime candidates to head the Premier League negotiating team.

Some clubs are beginning to suspect a "Tottenham bureaucracy" link between Leaver and Chisholm. Leaver is a former Spurs director and Chisholm was appointed to the

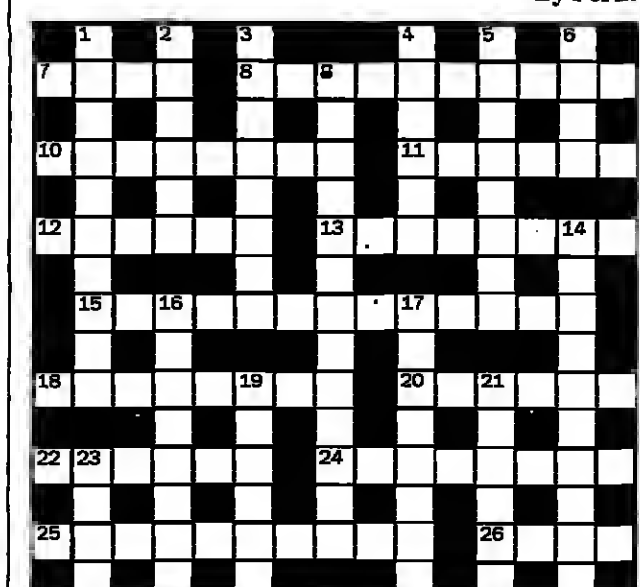
Tottenham board in the summer – a post he resigned just before last Thursday's meeting of the Premier League chairmen in order to defuse any possible allegations of a conflict of interest in his new appointment.

It has been suggested that Thursday's meeting will be about Leaver's behaviour, but a source close to him insists that it is more about his will to continue in the job if his power to make decisions seems likely to be undermined.

THE MONDAY CROSSWORD

No 3787: Monday 7 December

By Portia



- ACROSS**
- Sounds like record capacity (4)
 - Abandoned promises to pay found by maddened client (10)
 - Second's hesitation about type of athlete (8)
 - Artist's huge figure one's gripped by (6)
 - Doddering old boy heading back to find wine store (6)
 - And others you'll find
- DOWN**
- Firm number with a guarantee of accommodation (10)
 - Ridiculous some of his wilder ideas (6)
 - Fixed charge who's full value many retained (4,4)
 - Tell of urge to follow Poles (6)
 - Former royal carriage (8)
 - Radio amateur receiving unionist island (4)
 - Cover sheets with floral design (6,7)
 - Present trustee's fighting appeal (10)
 - Quiet inside captured Middle Eastern city (8)
 - Time can heal without giving medicinal solution (8)
 - Bird of prey savaged parrot (6)
 - Be angry about lawyer's hunder (6)
 - American company's short of land (4)

with press man about (10)
League ring to agree with view (4)

- ADDITIONAL CLUES**
- Theoretically this art can't be reproduced (2,3,8)
 - Drink no doubt taken in for regular (8)
 - What the brave display? Not likely (2,4)
 - Support who's standing again? (4,2)
 - Threaten I'd put out a friend (8)
 - Shopkeeper's gone mad

Edwards 'offered Kidd better deal'

MARTIN EDWARDS, the Manchester United chief executive, yesterday countered claims by Brian Kidd that he had not offered him a new deal to stay at Old Trafford.

Edwards insisted that he did make an increased pay offer, but he could not persuade the United No 2 to turn down the manager's job at Blackburn Rovers. "We did make him a new offer to stay," Edwards said. "We sat down with him and gave him a new contract and even offered him extended terms. But it became quite apparent that it was not a financial consideration. He wanted to have a chance at being a No 1."

Edwards' comments put him at odds with Kidd, who said: "There was no salary increase offered to me and nor was there any sought."

Edwards also denied any suggestion of intervention from

BY MARK PEIRSON

the backers of BSkyB's bid to take over United. "That is absolute nonsense," he said. Edwards did discuss the issue with a Sky representative out of "sheer courtesy".

Edwards also contested the claim that Kidd decided to leave because he had not been promised the job of successor to Alex Ferguson. "Alex Ferguson's position when he goes has never been discussed with Brian Kidd or anybody else. Alex himself has to decide who he wants as his No 2 – and that could be a very long process."

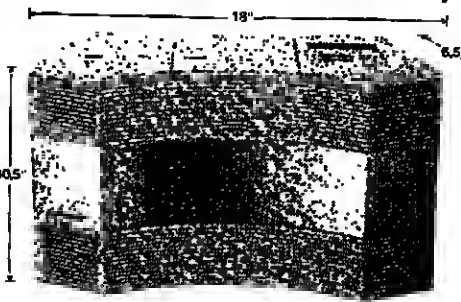
Tottenham's Steven Iversen had an operation on his jaw in Oslo following a collision with the Liverpool keeper David James on Saturday. The striker is likely to be out for several weeks.

Kidd, the man for all seasons, page 26

TOMORROW
DRUGS: WHO'S TAKING WHAT?
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MONDAY REVIEW

COMMENT • FEATURES • ARTS • LISTINGS • TELEVISION

The sexiest bloke on the box

Steven Mackintosh – great presence, beautiful blue eyes and tipped to be the next Gary Oldman. Lots of women are madly in love with him. Tragically, he's already taken

I think I must have first clocked the actor Steven Mackintosh when he played the mysterious John Rokesmith (alias John Harmon) in the BBC's adaptation of Dickens's *Our Mutual Friend*. "Hmm, he's quite something," I thought. "I like him." Next, it must have been as Joe, the romantic lead in the film *The Land Girls*, which co-starred the disgustingly pretty Anna Friel whom (as part of the plot) he got to sleep with. In fact, he also got to sleep with her in *Our Mutual Friend*, now I think about it, but I chose not to let it bother me on either occasion.

After all, and as my mother always told me, what I lack in looks I more than make up for with bags of something that might be personality, but then again might just be bags. (Tesco, Safeway, Sainsbury, Waitrose, Kwik Save... I compulsively collect them all, God knows why.) And then, thirdly, it was as the dark, disturbing Tom in the BBC's dark, disturbing cop drama *Undercover Heart*, where he got to sleep with Daniela Nardini, which I didn't mind so much, because she's quite big and Scottish and possibly part-horse.

Anyway, by the time *Undercover Heart* came along, I was terribly in love, and practically considered ourselves married, with golden-haired children who happily agreed to wear cute sailor suits and didn't mind when Mummy had to go to Hollywood with Daddy, because Daddy was up for an Oscar, and Mummy had been offered the loan of a dress from Versace. "It was promised to Julia Roberts, actually, Mrs Mackintosh. But as it's you..." Anyway, I think when you get this far with someone, you possibly ought to meet them.

So, astonishingly, I fix it. I say "astonishingly" because, generally, I am as dynamic as a dead slug after it's received a massive cosh on the head. But I get his agent's number, and call, and before you know it we are due to meet at the restaurant Granita in Islington.

Granita is a very chic, New Labour sort of place. I arrive first, and am spectacularly nervous. I am looking quite nice, though, in some extraordinarily elegant combat trousers which I thought about ironing until I realised I don't actually have an iron. I think I would have shredded the napkin, had it been possible, but the Granita napkins are linen or something, so I just end up unknicking a few hems.

There's a fine-looking woman in high heels and a soft, expensive-looking, scarlet leather jacket sitting at the next table. When Steven arrives, he makes straight to-

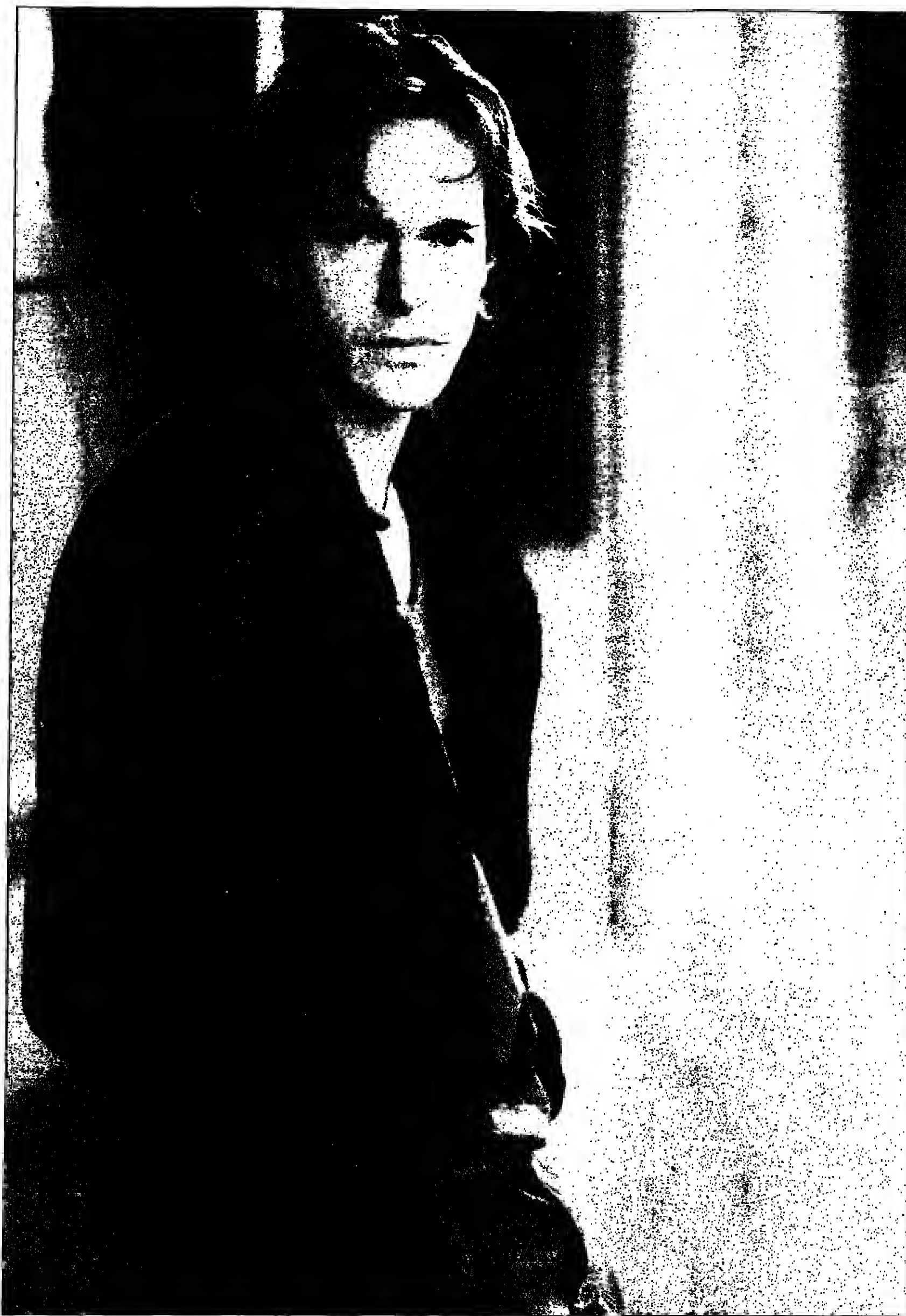
wards her table. "Coo-ee. Over here!" I have to cry. He has to quickly change direction. "You were hoping I was that woman, weren't you?" I say. "I wasn't," he protests. "Were, I say sulkily. 'Wasn't!' he repeats. I tell him that if we go on like this, we will have to make an appointment with Relate. Think of the children. Steven! He is starting to look quite frightened.

He is exceptional-looking. He isn't, thankfully, handsome in that overrated, hunky, Tom Cruise sort of way. He is quite small, scrawny even, with girl's hands, yet he has the most beautiful face – serious, intense, wintry, subtly reactive. He has very blue eyes. There is a real kind of power to him. As an actor, he has that certain something which you can't explain because, if you could, he wouldn't have it. It might be a kind of cocktail of vulnerability, danger, intelligence and total fanciability. But, then again, it might not. I mean, what do I know, apart from the fact that Sainsbury bags seem appallingly flimsy in comparison to the Waitrose ones, which seem to be better made all round?

Anyway, I wonder whether he thinks he has a certain quality. At least an astonishing physical presence, if nothing else. He gasps. "God, no. I think of myself as a pointy-faced weirdo. Too angular, too spindly. I should really do more of the gym thing." He says that sex-scenes always terrify him. He's panic-stricken for weeks beforehand. "It's such a strange thing to do," he says. "And while you're doing it, you're aware that people are ultimately going to see this spindly little thing writhing around on a bed."

He is wearing old jeans, an old woolly jumper that might have come from Oxford and an old coat that looks very The Red Cross shop on the Holloway Road, and which I think I almost bought once. He is quite creased, too. "I don't have an iron either," he admits, which makes me even more certain that we have a great future together. He is wearing a chain around his neck with a chunk of stone threaded on to it – "It's a lucky stone I found on a beach in Suffolk" – and a silver identity bracelet "that my wife saw in a shop in Norfolk..."

Your wife, Steven? "Yes, my wife saw it in a shop in Norfolk and..." YOUR WIFE, STEVEN! "Yes, my wife saw it in a..." OK, how long has this been going on? "Well, we just celebrated our 10th anniversary and..." CHILDREN, STEVEN! "Two girls. Martha, six, and Blythe, two." So you were trapped early, then? "My family are the most important thing to me," he protests. Yes! Yes! I cry. I feel the same! My family are the most important thing to me! I'm not just some pathetic soddie who



John Ferguson



THE DEBORAH ROSS INTERVIEW

lives surrounded by supermarket carrier bags and falls for blokes off the telly, you know! I, too, have a very rich family life. Although, that said, if you did want someone to go the Oscars with you, I could possibly manage it. He says hang on, he's only just acquired an agent on the West Coast. "And I haven't even been to LA yet!" He's 31 now, but made his stage debut at 12 at London's Bush Theatre, and has been working consistently since. In *Prick Up Your Ears*, the celebrated film of Joe Orton's life, he played young Joe in the childhood flashback scenes. In the Adrian Mole television series, he was Adrian's trainer-obsessed mate Nigel. More recently, it was as a scary, murderous nut who fed his victims to his dogs in *Prime Suspect 5*, plus major film roles in *Blue*

Juice and *Lock Stock & Two Smoking Barrels*. I think, now, he is possibly on the brink of being HUGE. I think, shortly, he'll be up there with Gary Oldman and Tim Roth and Ralph Fiennes and all the other English actors who have that certain inner stillness, which Hollywood so loves.

He, however, insists that he has no ambition in this direction. "I'd like to do a contemporary London thing, working with like-minded people, possibly through improvisation," he says, in his sweet, rather earnest way.

Fame? Does that attract you? He says he has just reached the point where people are clocking him in the street. It's OK, but quite disturbing, especially as most can't quite remember where they've seen him before. "So it's: 'Were you at Leicester Poly with me in 1982? You were, weren't you? Don't deny it!'"

We have a very nice lunch. He is a very real bloke. He's a woman's bloke, I think. He lives locally, near Arsenal football ground, but isn't interested in football in the least. He lives almost entirely with females. Even his dog is a girl. The only other men in the household are some fish. "My guppies. And the males are after the females 24 hours a day, trying to impregnate them. All the girl fish look as if they're thinking: 'Bugger off. You've had me already.'" He says he cried when his daughters were born. "Just this uncon-

trollable sobbing, because they were so beautiful". We talk a lot about his daughters. Blythe, he says, has fabulous chubby cheeks. Martha wants a doll's house for Christmas. Martha's brilliantly girly and invites her father to endless mock little tea parties.

Martha's a bit upset at the moment, though, because her friend Jessica has told her fairies don't really exist. Steven has had to convince her that maybe they do. We agree that children are wonderful, because they can be so easily duped. I tell him that if his daughter ever asks where God lives, for example, he might want to say he lives over Waitrose on the Holloway Road, with six angels who act as a remote for the telly, and a cat called Louise. I add that I told this to my own son once, and it satisfied his curiosity until he was at least 17. Steven says he knows this particular Waitrose well. It's where he does his weekly shop. I say, if you want to come back afterwards to see my Waitrose bag collection, you'd be most welcome. He says with great regret that he has to pick Martha up from somewhere shortly. He is truly disappointed, I think.

He was born and brought up in Sawston, which is just outside Cambridge. He feels no great attachment to the place. "I think it might have been a fairly pretty place once, with 13 pubs on the high street. But then it became one big Sixties housing de-

velopment, and very new-towny. Our house was one of those standard, Sixties, Legoshaped things. His mother, Dorothy, is an office worker, while his father, Malcolm, is a builder. He has one sister, Linda, who is now a childminder. He says his first passion was not for the theatre or anything, but music. He used to have this wind-up gramophone, he says, which he called his "thirty bob" because it cost him thirty bob, and he carried it everywhere with him. It may have been a kind of early ghetto-blast. He loved the "cheap end of disco music – Sister Sledge, Boney M – before graduating to Pink Floyd, "and writing their names all over my denim jacket, and all that rubbish".

Steven is still music-mad, and spends most of his money on CDs. "I have finally trained myself to be able to walk past a CD shop. Sometimes."

He thought at one time that he might be a rock star. He taught himself the guitar a bit. He sang a bit. But then he discovered that he was a good mimic.

However, he says that, as a boy, he was quite awkward and shy and uncomfortable in his own skin. He didn't easily make friends, he says, until he discovered a gift for mimicry, which made him quite popular at school. He is, he admits, the absolute cliché of the actor who became an actor because he found it easier being someone

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NETWORK
INCLUDING APPOINTMENTS

2/COMMENT AND LETTERS

Space for dreams

Sir: Almost thirty years ago a young boy, like millions of others around the world, sat in a darkened room as a ghostly black and white figure descended to the lunar surface. As a Nasa employee for six years I saw the same passionate look I had back in 1969 in the faces of youngsters at Space Camp as they saw the present-day shuttle.

I feel very sorry for Charles Arthur ("A waste of space", 4 December) in that he can only see investment in the International Space Station (ISS) in terms of money. I doubt whether many of those schoolchildren will ever be as inspired by investments in stocks and shares as much as by the space programme.

He admits that Mars Surveyor was a "spectacular success" but then goes on to say it showed Mars to be a "dead, cold, rocky desert". So what? A negative result in science is as good as a positive one.

Nasa's annual budget (around \$14bn the last time I looked) is a relatively small part of the US government's spending, considerably smaller than social security, housing and defence.

It is those with vision, big ideas and dreams that alter our world and not those that sit and criticise. MARK F SMITH
Charlbury, Oxfordshire

Sir: The cradle of Earth cannot sustain life indefinitely, whether the end comes by our own hands, astronomical misfortune or the ageing of our own Sun. For life to survive we must explore and conquer space. The space race is against time itself and the stakes are the highest imaginable. Is Mr Arthur truly denying the meaning of all life since the beginning of time for a few billion dollars? The ISS is a stepping stone to all our futures, not some self-serving public relations exercise. MICHAEL de WHALLEY
Grimston, Norfolk

Sir: Your leading article "Place no bounds on our quest for knowledge" (21 November) managed to explore every penny-pinching cliché in favour of abandoning the space station project.

Had Nasa and the politicians who fund it more courage it would long ago have become clear that the debate goes far beyond these banalities and in fact concerns the future of our species. Within the next century we will have exhausted our poor planet's resources; if by then provision has not been made to accommodate some of us in space, we will become extinct.

This debate does not concern an accountant's narrow preoccupation with value for money; it is not about some "quest for knowledge", as you put it. The issue could not be more fundamental; your paper should be digging deep for facts, not worriedly wringing its hands over the dollars involved - unless, of course, someone has discovered the secret of spending money when dead. P EVANS
Frinton-on-Sea, Essex

Sir: If Charles Arthur really does begrudge the money that the space station will cost each European then I will gladly send him a cheque for the 1p a week it will cost (assuming the space station has a life span of 20 years).

Likewise his belief that the Mars explorations are a failure due to the (so far) lack of evidence of life is surely misguided. He no doubt would also count the ascent of Everest a failure as it failed to find a branch of McDonald's open on the summit.

Exploration has always been a driving force in man's history and long may it continue to be so. Mr Arthur is welcome to stay at home darning his socks. JOHN LOWRY
Kenilworth, Warwickshire

Sir: Charles Arthur suggests that the International Space Station is

a costly white elephant, and merely an exercise in public relations. I think there is an altogether more pragmatic reason for the project.

Is it purely coincidence that projects such as the ISS and the proposed manned missions to Mars only really got off the ground when global warming became an undeniable threat? Or are they part of a multi-trillion-dollar insurance policy for the great and good of the new world order? MARK SIMPSON
Birmingham

Send him to Spain

Sir: Patricia Ann Wilson asks whether the "Spanish should be the ones to judge another on the matter of crimes against humanity" (letter, 4 December). She makes an ill-advised and offensive comparison between the Spanish people of the late 20th century and General Pinochet. Ms Wilson must believe that Spain remains unchanged since Pizarro and Cortes.

Acts against the indigenous peoples of North America, Africa, India and Australia by Britain, which in some instances continued well into this century, were, if anything, even more shameful.

The degree of autonomy granted to the Basque country since the death of Franco in 1976 (such as fiscal autonomy and its own police force), far exceeds that which is enjoyed in Northern Ireland or which is planned for Scotland and Wales. Ms Wilson seems unaware that the vast majority of the Basques wish to remain Spanish and are supportive of the fight against ETA.

If it was not for the foresight of a Spanish judge not only would we now not be engaging in a debate over where Pinochet should be tried but he would now be back in Santiago happily enjoying a Chilean summer. The Spanish courts should be congratulated for their courage.

I for one am far happier for Pinochet to be tried under Spanish jurisdiction than in a country such as the UK with such close ties of friendship and commerce with Chile. MARK PENNINGTON
London W9

Sir: Martin Cadman's logic, comparing Pinochet's case with that of the Libyans accused of the Lockerbie bombing, is totally awry (letter, 4 December). Pinochet committed his crimes in Chile and so, it is argued, should be tried there. The bombers committed their crimes elsewhere, including Scotland, and so there would be no inconsistency in maintaining the demand the two accused Libyans be tried in Scotland or a European court. MERVYN BENFORD
Banbury, Oxfordshire

Sir: Pinochet did give back power to the people peacefully. If the extradition process goes on, the message for all dictators still ruling their countries is very clear: whatever you do, hold on to power for the rest of your life. ALFREDO BARRIGA
Santiago, Chile

Supermarket terror

Sir: The ending of the worldwide ban on British beef is extremely welcome. However it would be easy to be under the misconception that all our troubles are over, far from it.

At present, we livestock farmers are failing to get a market price high enough to cover the cost of production, a problem which can be remedied if only the supermarkets' ruthless reign of terror brought to an end. The supermarkets have been far too



Winter visitors No 1: The cold weather sets birdwatchers' pulses racing at Snettisham, on the Norfolk coast, where waders and waterfowl arrive in their thousands to overwinter. David Rose

quick to capitalise on the regrettable shortsightedness of some farmers who sell their livestock directly into supermarket-owned abattoirs, bypassing the live market system. The supermarkets set a seductive price for livestock just above the average live market price. Premium livestock are

tempted away from the market system, leaving only the animals which do not meet their specifications. This results in a lowering of the market average price the following week - the price from which the supermarkets will go on to base their subsequent premium. Every week that follows, the downward

spiral continues, with lamb prices now at rock bottom. For the many livestock markets which work on a commission basis the loss of throughput could well see the end of the live auction system. The supermarkets will then achieve a price monopoly. The crash in farm gate prices for livestock has led to the loss of

Sir: Philip Hensher's diatribe against C S Lewis's children's stories ("Don't let your children go to Narnia", 4 December) has all the qualities he despises, moral bullying and smug self-satisfaction.

His final bon mot, "Give them anything else - Last Exit to Brooklyn, a bottle of vodka, a phial of prussic acid, even Winnie the Pooh - but keep them away from The Voyage of the Dawn Treader" - smacks of the most tedious kind of schoolboy witicism. No one cares if Philip Hensher likes Narnia; many adults do not. Children do. Why take it away from them because of priggish right-thinking? MEGAN MCGILCHRIST
London SE4

Sir: Philip Hensher obviously has not bothered to read A Grief Observed, a work that has not only helped me in my bereavements (I am an

orphan), but has also helped many others. It was not written by someone "mean and narrow-minded", let alone a misogynist. ISOBEL MONTGOMERY CAMPBELL
London W13

Sir: Oscar Wilde, who had affairs with members of both sexes, not to mention apparently (if his own letters are to be believed) passionate marriage, would be more accurately described as bisexual than gay ("It's got to go", 1 December). KAREN ABBOTT
Somerset, New Jersey, USA

Sir: Michael Brown's comparison (The Week in Parliament, 5 December) of the "cost" of my questions and the amount paid to ministers in

IN BRIEF

severance payments is a false one. My questions cost nothing - the cost is a theoretical one. Not a single civil servant has been taken on to answer them, and not one would have been made redundant had I not done so. The £106,652 paid to ex-ministers, however, is real taxpayers' money. NORMAN BAKER MP
(Leaves, Lib Dem)
House of Commons
London SW1

Sir: J G Cunningham (letter, 3 December) should look again at the latest hardbacks. The pages are folded, allowing the book to open flat. But they are not sewn. This is no doubt a cheaper production than before. The main disadvantage of perfect bound books nowadays is that it is difficult to avoid creasing the spine on opening the book for the first time. J JOCELYN
Glasgow

name, Pinochet. It looks very French. It sounds very French. But Chile is a Spanish-speaking nation. Can you explain this? Easily. When an immigrant becomes assimilated to a new country, he loses everything of his old identity except his name, and often not even that. You have people in Britain with French names. Your general in the Gulf War - what was he called? Peter de la Billière? And what of your actress lady, Frances de la Tour? And Philip de Glanville? Are they all French?

No... Claro que no... Now, the BBC makes the mistake of pronouncing my name in the French style, Pee-no-shay, but in Chile I am Pee-nochet. You know the Chilean footballer Marcelo Salas? Everyone

in Britain calls him Mar-chello, but that is the Italian pronunciation. In Chile he is Mar-sello. The problem, is European ignorance. Which is also why I am still here.

Do you have no regrets at all, General? Yes, I regret that Chile has no national dance. Brazil has the samba, Argentina has the tango, Cuba has the salsa, but Chile has nothing. Even our old enemy Peru has the Andean pipes, and revolting they are too, but we have nothing. That is my one regret. Nothing else.

I very much hope to get the General back again soon so that the old rascal can deal with more of your queries, so keep those questions rolling in.

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LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Post letters to Letters to the Editor, The Independent, 1 Canada Square, London E14 5DL and include a daytime telephone number. fax to 0171 293 2056 or e-mail to letters@independent.co.uk. E-mail correspondents are asked to give a postal address. Letters may be edited for length and clarity.

hundreds of millions of pounds to farmers this autumn alone. This huge blow to the economics of agriculture has contributed to the loss of many family farms. It will also prove to be a burden too high to overcome for many young farmers who would have been the next generation of this industry. As a young farmer myself, I am one of the few who choose to remain in agriculture, but with the current state of the industry this a decision I may be forced to reconsider. ROBERT J DAVIES
Llangymidr, Powys

ITV hits back

Sir: Andrew Neil's criticism of ITV (Media, 1 December) for successfully seeking to move News at Ten is curiously at odds with his libertarian credentials. As a free-marketier, it would have been more logical for him to support ITV's case for the same freedom and flexibility to schedule as is enjoyed by its competitors.

He alleges that "ITV can no longer be bothered to provide live Budget coverage". This year, we cleared the schedule for an uninterrupted one hour and forty minutes to carry an ITN live Budget special.

He compares ITV unfavourably with the US networks for not interrupting the schedule with breaking news. During the course of this year, ITV has carried more news flashes and extended bulletins than in the previous seven years put together.

His general assertion "that there is no longer any regular serious current affairs on ITV" falls into the same bracket for accuracy. It is a bit rich to dismiss our new one-hour 60 Minutes-style current affairs programme - the biggest current affairs commission on any channel for 30 years - before it has even hit the screen. DAVID LIDDIMENT
Director of Programmes
ITV Network Ltd
London WC1

Schools in crisis

Sir: To proclaim the depoliticising of education on the grounds that there is no longer a debate (leading article, 1 December) is to misread the situation. For politicians of all persuasions education as political football is over; education is no longer "sexy"; it is media-dead.

The crushing of professional independence; the fostering of a regime of repression and harassment; the degrading of the idea of a liberal education and substitution of purely material and market values; the humiliation of the vulnerable and disadvantaged schools to make cheap political capital; fast-track preferment for the few leaving a platitude for the rest - all this bespeaks the real state of affairs in education and gives the lie to your analysis. For a more reliable verdict on the quality of life in our schools we need look no farther than the unprecedented crisis of recruitment to the teaching profession. MALCOLM ROSS
Dartington, Devon

Sir: If David Bunkett is to assess the success of teachers, and reward them accordingly, on the basis the achievements, or otherwise, of their pupils he is surely neglecting another vital part of the equation. Research suggests, that 50 per cent of the performance of a child in school is dependent upon his/her parenting. Are parents, therefore, going to be similarly evaluated for the amount of child benefit they receive as a consequence of their children's results at school? GEOFF COX
Rugby, Warwickshire

Tatchell's sermon

Sir: Let's get this into proportion. Dr Carey's sermon was delayed for about two minutes by someone objecting to his conduct on human rights. Dr Carey sustained no injury, the magistrate accepted that the protest was non-violent and likened it to a minor public order offence. In contrast, the attempts to remove Peter Tatchell were forceful.

The Archbishop's spokesman is correct to say that it does not matter that the 1860 Act is old (letters, 3 December). By modern standards, those found guilty of draconian and injury sometimes only receive community service orders.

The Rev John Williams is confused if he thinks prison awaits those simply interrupting a stage performance or denouncing the local pub landlord. The only interruptions that could result in prison are those in or around a place of worship, under the Ecclesiastical Courts Jurisdiction Act 1860. This harsh and privileged statute must be repealed as soon as possible. K PORTEOUS WOOD
General Secretary
National Secular Society
London WC1

Sir: Nigel Hawthorne asks if we would dare to hold somebody up to ridicule if they were Jewish, black or a member of any other minority group ("The dangerous bigotry of the BBC", 2 December). The answer is that we would if they belonged to the Church of England.

The freedom to protest is not a licence to abuse the inoffensive and cherished practices of a minority. Atheists and pagans are free to reject Christianity but in our democracy even Christians are entitled to have their beliefs and sincerely protected from violence.

To me as a Christian Peter Tatchell's disruption of our sacred, solemn and contemplative service of Holy Communion in the mother church of English Christianity was even more offensive than the endless journalistic mocking and deriding of our beliefs, and such jeering would indeed not be directed at Jews or blacks. MALWYN THOMAS
London SW6

Sir: The one who missed a great opportunity when Peter Tatchell tried to take over the pulpit from the Archbishop was the organist. He could have played the loudest impromptu voluntary of his life! The Rev JOHN B WILCOX
Redcar, Cleveland

Oboe notes

Sir: Michael Cumming's interesting article laments that the Oboe blind-bombing system did not receive more widespread use (Historical Notes, 1 December). There were two simple reasons.

First, the beam could only be picked up in a straight line from the transmitter, as the Earth curved away the minimum height above ground at which it could be received increased, the further the aircraft was from the transmitter. The aircraft ceiling of the time was around 30,000 feet, which gave a maximum range of 300 miles. The furthest target possible was the Ruhr. The majority of German cities were beyond its range.

Second, only one aircraft at a time could use the system. Bomber Command had earlier realised that single aircraft over a target were easy prey to defences and developed the stream tactic. This placed up to 1,000 bombers over a target in a little over an hour, overwhelming the defences and reducing casualty rates.

Consequently it was decided to use Oboe solely as a means of accurate marking. Other devices, such as the H2S ground-mapping radar, were developed to extend the range of bomber operations. However, they were not as accurate as Oboe and area bombing remained the only option at night. DR STEPHEN TRAVIS
Sale, Cheshire

Pinochet: dinner with Thatcher was like an enema

I AM very pleased to offer the hospitality of this column to General Augusto Pinochet, who has been looking for a safe refuge ever since he arrived in this country. He has kindly agreed to give me the day off while he acts as guest columnist and answers the queries of our readers. All yours, General.

Dear General Pinochet. Do you now regret coming to England for medical treatment? Do you wish you had stayed in Chile? General Pinochet writes: No, my friend. What I was looking for was something I could only find in Britain.

And what was that? A dinner date with Mrs Thatcher!

But I thought you had come here

for medical treatment? You think a dinner date with Mrs Thatcher is not medical treatment? My Dios, it is very similar to colonic irrigation or an enema or any of those scouring operations which leave you feeling battered, exhausted, empty but hopeful.

Maybe more like electric shock treatment. Anyway, after my dinner with Señora Thatcher, I felt I could face anything. That is why I have been so resilient under arrest. If I am sequestered by the police, I thought, at least that saves me from another dinner date with death.

You're joking, surely? Yes, I'm joking. I am merely trying to show that we Chileans also have a sense of humour.

So what was the medical problem

that really brought you here? I had arm trouble.

Arm trouble? Yes, Chile needed more arms, and I agreed to come over to Britain to buy them.

Is that another joke? I have always admired the British sense of humour. After all, any nation which could put up with Mrs Thatcher for 10 years must have a very advanced form of humour.

Tell us, General - what does it feel like to be a mass murderer? Yes, I thought we might get a question like this. Well, let me tell you, I have no idea. Yes, bad things were done in Chile while I was leader. They were very bad things. But I did not do them. They were done



MILES KINGSTON

My visit was to cure arm trouble - Chile needed more arms, so I arranged to buy them over here

with my knowledge and by my government forces. But never was I present when anyone was killed.

Has Tony Blair been present when someone was killed? I think not.

But Tony Blair is not a mass murderer! Nevertheless, he stands by while people are killed. Every year on British roads 5,000 people are slaughtered. Even by my standards as a so-called "mass murderer" that is impressive. Now, Tony Blair does not kill any of these people personally. But he has it in his power to stop it happening. By not doing so, he is a mass murderer!

That is pure sophistry! Thank you very much. Next question? Preferably not about my career as a mass murderer?

This one is about philology. General. I am very interested in your

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Animal welfare is a good cause, but it needs no martyrs

BY THE time you read this, Barry Horne may be dead. His chances of survival are certainly slim. He would not be quite the first martyr of the modern animal rights movement: Jill Phipps was crushed under the wheels of a lorry exporting live calves to the Continent four years ago. However, he is the first to choose to die for the cause. Such passionate belief in the rightness of a cause demands an answer.

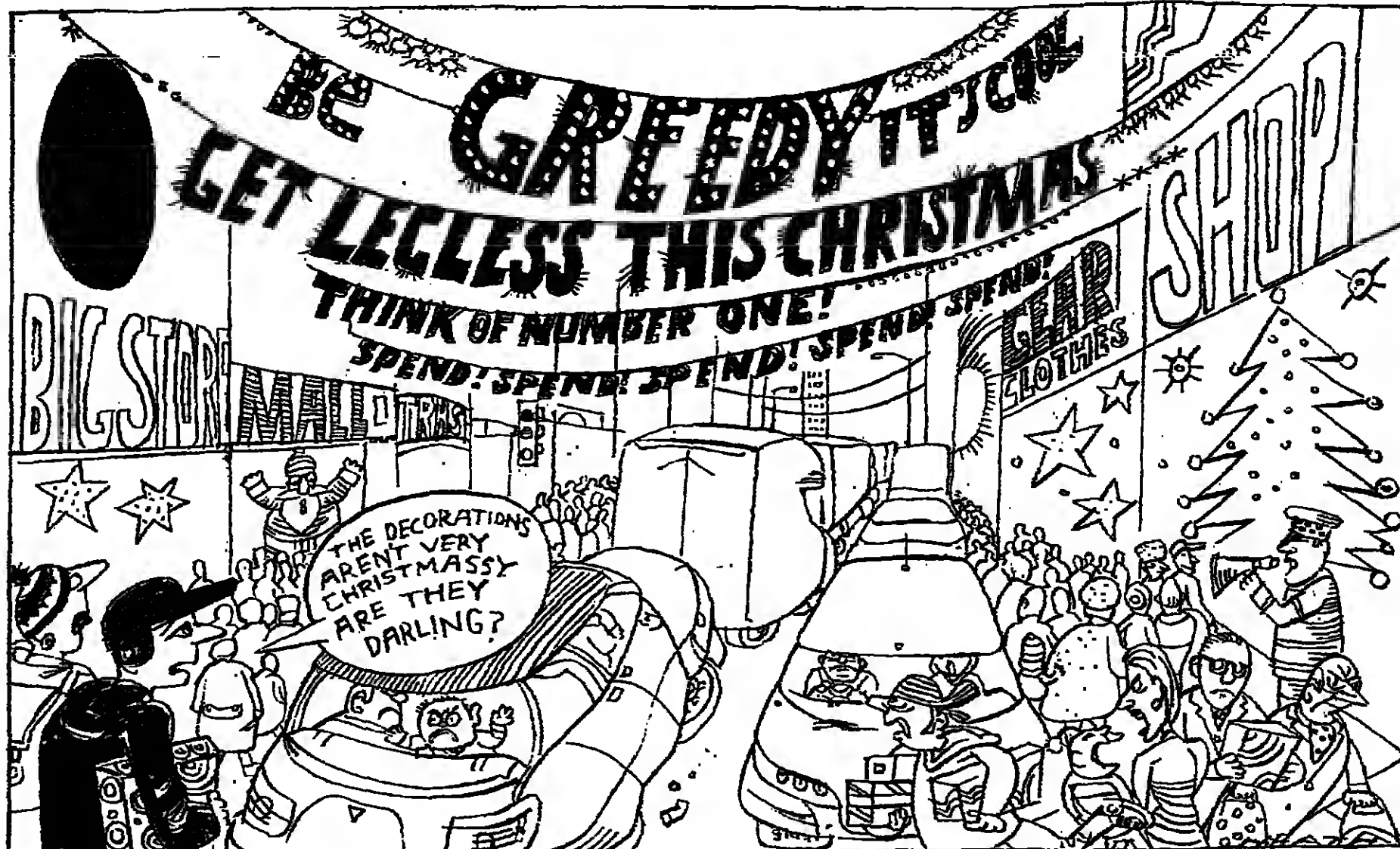
Mr Horne is fasting in protest at the Labour Government's failure to set up a Royal Commission to examine the issue of experiments on animals. It is true that the Labour Party has broken the spirit of its pre-election promise. In 1996, Tony Blair put his name to a document called "New Labour, New Life for Animals" which said: "We will support a Royal Commission to review the effectiveness and justification of animal experiments and to examine alternatives." This pledge was not repeated in the manifesto, but it was referred to obliquely: "We have advocated new measures to promote animal welfare," the manifesto declared.

Now, however, ministers say a Royal Commission would be too expensive and might delay action. It is an argument that would carry more weight if there were any action to delay, so far the Government has managed to end the testing of cosmetics on animals, which accounted for just 250 rabbits, guinea pigs and rats out of a total of 2.7 million animals a year. And, while it is true that Royal Commissions are cumbersome - they "take minutes and waste years", as Harold Wilson said - no other way of assessing the need for animal experiments has been set up.

This is regrettable, less from the point of view of cruelty to animals than because it provides a grievance against which extreme measures can be mobilised. If the Prime Minister had announced a review, it would have been a chance to educate the public about the balance that has to be made between the welfare of humans and that of other animals. As it is, the cry of "betrayal" provides moral fuel for the arsonists, saboteurs and hunger strikers of the animal rights movement, while giving them little incentive to consider the detail of complex public policy.

And fanaticism is a dangerous thing. Absolutism in pursuit of rights which are not absolute, such as those of animals, can never be justified.

It leads to the kind of illogic which ends up with the release of mink to slaughter wildlife and to die painful deaths or with the argument that the lives of scientists who use animals to alleviate human suffering are less important than those of mice. The responsible wing of the animal rights movement must ensure that the tragedy of Mr Horne does not become a greater one.



Neither a gazumper nor a gazunderer be

WE SHOULD be wary of Hilary Armstrong today, when the housing minister announces measures designed to make the buying and selling of houses easier, cheaper and faster. These are laudable objectives. And there is no doubt that the business of conveying is more difficult, expensive and slow than it needs be, and that this works against a fair market in the most expensive things most people ever buy.

But house-buying can never be reduced to the simplicity and efficiency of buying baked beans, precisely because houses are large, complex things and the amounts of money involved are so big. Many of the quick fixes are misguided. The Scottish system of sealed bids does not guarantee the best price. The idea of a "log book" for every house is flawed:

who would compile it and to whom would they be liable if it turned out to be misleading?

There are two ideas which, if they appear in Ms Armstrong's plans, should be welcomed. One is that sellers should be forced to compensate prospective purchasers if they "gazump" - that is, accept a higher offer after agreeing a price. Equally, buyers should not be allowed to "gazunder" - drop the price before exchanging. The other is that surveyors should be made liable to anyone who relies on a survey, not just the person who commissioned it. This would enable sellers to have surveys done for any prospective buyer.

What is depressing is that the proposals should be necessary at all. Making the market work better does not appear to require any changes in the law. The legal and surveying professions have been slow to innovate. If Ms Armstrong can give them a kick to get them to cut the three months it takes on average to buy a house, it will be justified intervention in the supposedly free market.

Lost for words

WHEN GERHARD Schröder, the new German Chancellor, appealed for common sense in the row over hidden state subsidies in the form of tax breaks - or the "Hun plot to put up our taxes", in the Eurosceptic press - we were brought up short when the English word "fairness" suddenly cropped up in the middle of a sentence full of umlauts and initial capitals. Apparently, there is no exact German word that means "fairness", so Mr Schröder did what most Germans do, which is to use the English one. The Eurosceptic press will no doubt put this fact in the same category of xenophobic myths as the claim that there is no word for "sorry" in Japanese, or that there is no word for "snow" in the Inuit language. But before they go too far they should reflect that there are some things for which there is no word in English, for all its polyglot inheritance - laissez-faire being perhaps the most apt example.

When will New Labour face up to the truth about taxes?

"SHOCK! HORROR! Train fares to rise by 21 per cent..." Yes, it's that grim time of year when our privatised rail companies announce their fares for next year. The annual ritual has become as familiar as the switching on of Christmas lights in high streets around the country. For 11 months of the year, there are reports highlighting the appalling train services endured by travellers. The year's end is greeted with news of huge fare rises. Here we go again?

Not quite. The story is more complicated than the perennial tales about humbling privatised companies seeking bigger profits.

Of course, no one in their right minds would leap to the defence of the millionaire incompetents who run these services. With their excuses about the "wrong type of snow" and the like, the rail bosses convert me to fleeing advocacy of capital punishment, maybe committed to enforced incarceration on a train from London to Blackpool, something that would take up most of the rest of their natural lives. But a much wider question has to be asked of those fare increases: what do we expect?

For there is a blindingly obvious function between the amount the government is willing to spend on train services and the level of the fares. If the subsidy shrinks there is only the fare-payer to make up for the shortfall. No doubt there are savings to be made through efficiencies, and quite clearly the old nationalised British Rail was no model on which to base a decent service. But in the end there is no getting away from it. In France

and Germany governments spend more on trains so the fares are lower and the services are more reliable. In Britain we have opted for a system where the fare, which takes no account of a person's ability to pay or the benefits to road users from travellers opting to take trains, has replaced higher government spending.

This, along with less than inspired management, is why Britain has a shambolic privatised railway network. It stands as a totem to the country's inability to have a mature debate about taxation and spending. The former Conservative transport minister, Stephen Norris, has admitted as much. He suggests that the main reason for his support of rail privatisation was despair at the prospect of getting any more money out of the Treasury. Either a publicly owned system withered through lack of funds or they handed it over to the private sector. But why were there no funds? Because the ground was being prepared by the Major government for pre-election tax cuts.

This has had an intriguing and irrational side-effect in Britain's hysterical debate about Europe. The most vocal voters in the world, the Middle Englishers, head for France for their holidays. There they are impressed with the efficiency of French trains. Then they return to Britain, phone up Nicky Campbell on Five Live to declare that the rest of Europe is jealous of the British way of life and wants to take it over. The next day they head for Calais because prices in supermarkets are much lower than in Britain. Well Middle England, the



STEVE RICHARDS
It is just possible that Europe will provide a camouflage for some tax rises in years to come

British supermarkets would not be able to get away with it if Britain was in the euro. The differences would be too transparent.

The row over Europe that erupted last week will do so again this week, when William Hague will be dusting down the questions he would - and should - have asked Tony Blair in the Commons last Wednesday before he decided the time had come to defend his hereditary peer. Indeed it is because Europe has now become linked with tax that Hague is actually on potentially fruitful territory. When it is Europe alone the Tories always risk another bout of internal fighting. But on tax and spend the party of the Right is united.

Tony Blair and Gordon Brown neutralised tax as an issue at the last election by taking the drastic step of

pledging not to raise income tax for the whole parliament. This was a shrewd move because income tax had become an irrational symbol in British politics, as if all that mattered was a party's attitude towards it. As Michael Meacher pointed out in an interview with me a short time before the election, there were plenty of other ways of raising taxes.

The reason the spin doctors reacted with horror to Meacher's endearing candour was that he happened to be right. With considerable stealth, the Treasury has found other cash-raising measures. However, there is a limit to the number of times that Gordon Brown can find discreet ways of doing this, a privatisation here, a tax on pensions there.

This is what prompted the Fabian Society, to set up a commission under Lord Plant to review Britain's tax system. Downing Street was not pleased at the news, which shows how primitive our debate on taxation remains. The prospect of Lord Plant declaring that some taxes may have to rise sends shivers down Blair's spines. But the commission will not be recommending a reversion to "Old Labour" policies of interventionism in failing industries or excessive spending without accompanying efficiencies. It may recommend other ways of raising tax in order to fund a modern welfare state and other services. If Britain could only have a rational debate, no one should be afraid of that.

To some extent Brown has moved the debate on from the pre-election madness. He talks now of a "tax and

invest" strategy, which implies that taxpayers will get something back for their mooney. This is why the reforms in education and health are important. Crucially, voters need to see tangible improvements to accompany the cash pumped into these services.

But the debate is still at a desperately early stage. How will Labour respond, for example, to the following scenario? In January 2001, months before a likely election, the shadow chancellor Peter Lilley, goes on the Today programme and announces that a Tory government would cut the basic rate of income tax by 2p in the pound to be paid for by cuts in the social security budget and other efficiencies. William Hague declares: "We prefer to let the voters decide how to spend their money, rather than a nanny state and Tony's cronies spending it for them." Unless the debate matures a little in the coming years, Brown may feel obliged to follow suit and take part in a tax-cutting auction. It is too late to do much about the railways. They were privatised long ago, but other services demand levels of spending which should rule out such an option.

There is, though, a twist to the hysteria of recent weeks. While Blair and Brown are right to challenge the excesses of Oskar Lafontaine, it is just possible that Europe will provide a camouflage for some necessary tax increases in the years to come. If we are limited to taxation by stealth, we might as well let Brussels, if not our trains, take some of the strain.

Steve Richards is political editor of

QUOTE OF THE DAY

"It feels me with gloom that William Hague's office seems to be intent on poisoning Robert Cranborne's reputation"
Lord Fraser, former deputy leader of the Tory peers

THOUGHT FOR THE DAY

"Opinions which justify cruelty are inspired by cruel impulses"
Bertrand Russell, philosopher



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WILLIAM HAGUE was never more than a smart-alec debater. That was his downfall, for he tried to be too smart with Tony Blair.

Mr Hague has failed himself, his party and his country.

But it is not entirely his fault. The internal warfare and hatred among Tory MPs led him to pick a boy to do a man's job.

Now we see the farcical and tragic consequences.
Sunday Mirror

THE WEEK which ought to have been William Hague's best turned out to be his worst. Mr Hague made a bad tactical misjudgement at Prime Minister's Question Time by attacking Mr Blair solely over the aborted deal which Lord Cranborne had agreed.

Not only did he miss an opportunity to torment the Government over the EU's tax plans. He fatally underestimated the Prime Minister's insouciance when accused of

breaking his own principles. But this does not mean the Tory leader acted wrongly once the crisis erupted. Lord Cranborne charmingly compared himself to an "ill-trained

spaniel". Abandoning hunting metaphor, one might more pertinently describe his actions as devious, disloyal, two-timing, arrogant and mendacious. We suspect that when the

dist has settled, it will be Mr Hague's principled toughness rather than the carnage on the red benches that will remain in the public mind.
The Sunday Telegraph

MR HAGUE'S critics delude themselves if they think he can be replaced before the next general election. The Tories have to decide: do they want to give Labour a free run into the next election or do they want to put up a decent fight?

If the latter, then they had better start behaving like a proper opposition.
The Sunday Times

WILLIAM HAGUE'S chief function seems to be to make Blair look sincere and authentic, which is quite something.

No wonder the Tories are looking at Ann Widdecombe as an alternative. She, unfortunately, is frighteningly real.
(Suzanne Moore)
The Mail on Sunday

MONITOR

ALL THE NEWS OF THE WORLD
The Sunday newspapers reflect on William Hague's position

Kebabs and Wilde totty



JOHN WALSH

'Ah, the exquisite Richard Littlejohn,' he would murmur, 'the ineffable in pursuit of the unsayable'

THE SUN has come out as an Oscarist. In the most unusual alliance since Vince Hill sang "Say You'll Stay" to the theme from the overture to Wagner's *Tannhäuser*, the nation's foremost mouthpiece of homophobic philistinism has declared its natural affinity with Oscar Wilde. Ruminating on the unveiling of the Irish playwright's monument in London last week, the Currant Bun opined: "Oscar Wilde's writing genius lives on 88 years after his death. He has finally got a memorial in this country. The Sun says. About time too. He may have been one of them but we reckon he was also one of us. He would have loved The Sun." Now that they're such fans, will the newspaper embrace his example?

But would he really have loved The Sun? You can imagine him, can't you, sitting among the plush banquettes of the Café Royal at one in the morning, toying with a hock-and-seltzer, eyeing the talent at the bar, languidly leafing through the early edition of his favourite journal, kindly brought along by Robbie Ross. "The exquisite Littlejohn," he would murmur, "the ineffable in pursuit of the unsayable..." How he would enjoy the punning headlines, the saliva-drenched telly review, the violent partisanship. And it would, perhaps, give him a few ideas...

The scene: Algernon Moncrieff's flat in Half Moon Street. LANE is arranging ALGERNON tea on the table. Enter ALGERNON.

ALGERNON: Ah, Lane. See the match last night? I thought Dublin played a blinder.

LANE: I missed it, sir. I was engaged in procuring bacon sandwiches at the Get Stuffed All-Nite Grub Emporium, for your tea with Lady Bracknell. They are reheating in the chafing-dish.

ALGERNON: Shame. It was Villa what won it. Though the word "villa" hardly conveys the scale of their genius. I see them more as a country mansion with spectacular wings. Did we consume much last night?

LANE: Eight bottles of champagne, a case of claret, two crates of Newcastle Brown, and some Iro Bru.

ALGERNON: Did Mr Evans and Mr Ascoigne get home all right?



Class act: would Dorothy Tutin and Joan Greenwood, in the 1952 film of 'The Importance of Being Earnest', have been avid readers of the Currant Bun?

LANE: I believe they took a hansom cab to Marcel's Absinthe 'n' Kebabs Den at dawn. I was awakened by the sounds of prodigious micturition in the shrubbery.

ALGERNON: A pity Samantha and Denise couldn't stand the pace. (Wistfully) They were lovely girls, so innocent and ethereal yet so - so mad for it.

LANE: They were, indeed, what is commonly known as Top Totty, sir.

ALGERNON: Don't agree with me, Lane. When people agree with me I always feel that I must be wrong.

LANE: Leave it out, sir. (Exit.)

Enter LADY BRACKNELL and GWENDOLEN.

LADY BRACKNELL: Good afternoon, dear Algernon. See EastEnders last night? Looks like it's all over with Ricky and Biancaaaah, then. (Laughs raucously.)

ALGERNON: I am more concerned, dear aunt, about that Grant Mitchell, and the new bird in the square. His intentions may not, I fear, be honourable.

LADY BRACKNELL: I'm sorry if we are a little late, Algernon. I was obliged to speak with Mr Max Clifford about the Sunday Sport. They appeared to have gained some awkward intelligence about my shame at

the three-in-a-bed romps with the Reverend Chasuble and Merriman the butler.

ALGERNON: What advice did Mr Clifford offer?

LADY BRACKNELL: He suggested that I tell the *News of the World* I was happy to initiate a debate on the parlous state of modern marriage.

ALGERNON (reflectively): The marital state is, like any other state, open to periods of misgovernment. What happens in parlours, on the other hand...

LADY BRACKNELL: Don't talk bollocks, Algernon. Have you any crumpets?

ALGERNON: Here you are. (Offers plate.) I do enjoy a nice bit of crumpet.

GWENDOLEN: Don't get me wrong, I see glamour modelling as a stepping-stone to a career on the classical stage or as an ambassador for World Peace.

ALGERNON (sotto voce): I love you, Gwendolen. My passion for you is overpowering. My love for you is as true as the wind, as deep as the ocean, as vast as the mountains...

GWENDOLEN: Mountains? Are you suggesting I've had a Boob Job to Enhance my Assets?

ALGERNON: Let me take you away. We could get married in Paris. I could

show you the Eiffel Tower.

GWENDOLEN: I know the Eiffel Tower. I don't get my kit off for a cent under five grand.

ALGERNON (kneeling): Marry me, Gwendolen, and I promise to relinquish My Drugs Hell and buy you a posh three-bedroomed home in leafy Ruislip. I assure you I am perfectly sincere.

GWENDOLEN: A little sincerity is a dangerous thing, and a great deal of it is absolutely fatal.

ALGERNON: But my darling...

GWENDOLEN: I don't trust you. I fear you may be a Love Rat who will dump me for Steamy Sessions with fun-loving Mandy. 17.

LADY BRACKNELL (returning): Rise, sir, from that semi-recumbent posture. It is most indecorous.

Enter LANE.

LANE: Mr Jack Worthing.

Enter JACK.

JACK: It's Jazza, actually. How are you, Al-boy?

ALGERNON: My dear chap, what brings you up to town?

JACK: I had tickets for the Palace game.

ALGERNON: Did we win?

JACK: Regrettably, they stuffed us, three nil. Got any cucumber

sandwiches? Or falling that, some meat pies?

LANE: I'll see if there are some porky scratchings in the pantry.

ALGERNON: Mega, Jack, allow me to introduce Lady Bracknell and her daughter, Gwendolen.

LADY BRACKNELL: Under no circumstances may you address me as Lady Bracknell.

JACK: How do you do? See Corrie last night? That Keo Barlow should be given a good kicking. Phoooa, hello darling. You're a lovely girl. Bit of a stunner, as we used to say. How old are you?

LADY BRACKNELL: One should never trust a woman who tells one her real age. A woman who would tell one that would tell one anything.

JACK: I sought to establish your daughter's age merely with a view to casting her in a cinematographic entertainment in which I am involved. It is entitled *Kerri-Ann Does Kensington*. It is a video.

LADY BRACKNELL: I see. (Laughs.) Literally.

GWENDOLEN: I'm afraid I don't have experience in anything really sizzling.

JACK: Experience is merely the name everyone gives to their mistakes, darling.

LADY BRACKNELL: I cannot allow this

to carry on. My daughter is a young person of unbesmirchable virtue.

She...

JACK: If you play ball with us, Lady B, there could be a bung in it for you.

LADY BRACKNELL: A bung? Do you refer to some form of bath plug?

JACK: It's a bribe. That is the sort of man I am, you see, Lady Bracknell. I am a little bit whaay. I am a little bit whaay. I am a little bit whaay.

LADY BRACKNELL: And where am I to receive this... this bung?

JACK: I'll leave it for you in the hallway downstairs.

LADY BRACKNELL: But where in the hallway downstairs?

JACK: In a handbag.

LADY BRACKNELL: A handbag?

JACK: Come on, Gwen. A few sherrys in Dean Street, then I'll introduce you to some of my gentlemen associates.

(They exit.)

ALGERNON (opening can of Tennant's Extra): There is only one thing worse than being shafted by the media, and that is being completely ignored by the media.

(Drinks reflectively.)

LADY BRACKNELL: You couldn't make it up.

Curtain

RIGHT OF REPLY

PETER BOND



The science adviser to the Royal Astronomical Society answers Charles Arthur

THE INTERNATIONAL Space Station (ISS) has become a target for disgruntled scientists and hostile commentators who dismiss it as a "waste of space". What are the grounds for this strident criticism?

First, that it is years behind schedule. Yet hardly any major international projects involving advanced technology have been delivered on time. The Eurofighter is an example.

Second, that there is no guarantee that it will produce any money-spinning breakthroughs. If the 15th-century explorers had adopted the same attitude, Christopher Columbus would never have ventured forth from the safe, chartered waters of the Mediterranean. As the scientist Saunders Kramer has commented, "We'll find 10,000 things to do on the station that nobody's thought of or even imagined."

Third, that it is a PR exercise. It is undoubtedly true that NASA actively seeks to promote the advantages of its manned and unmanned programmes, but this can hardly be a crime for an agency that depends for funds on the support of politicians and the public.

Fourth, that it was the dream child of Ronald Reagan. In fact, an American space station was envisaged back in the late Sixties. Indeed, the space shuttle was originally intended to act as a supply ship for such a station.

Fifth, that the station is unsafe. Not a single astronaut has died in action since the *Challenger* accident 13 years ago. Risk-taking is necessary for progress. The ISS is a unique opportunity to exploit near-Earth space. It provides jobs, boosts technological development and will lead to unforeseen spin-offs. Spread over 15 years, the cost per person is equivalent to less than one lottery ticket per year. Let's build the monster and then see where it leads us.

The deluded prophet

ENOCH POWELL died only nine months ago, but here, already, is the authorised biography. Over the previous 30 years, since he shot to notoriety with his infamous "rivers of blood" speech in 1968, he had already been the subject of more biographies than any political figure who was not prime minister. The last, by Robert Shepherd, was the first to draw on the Conservative Party archive and the Public Record Office. But Shepherd, like all previous biographers, still ducked the real problem of Powell's intellectual formation. No one will really explain Powell until they can make sense of his bizarre compendium of classical literature, German Romanticism and Christianity.

Simon Heffer, with a life of Carlyle to his credit, is better qualified than most to meet this challenge; and in his early chapters he makes a decent fist of it, describing the influence of Housman (both as exacting critic and Romantic poet); and of Nietzsche's atheism (never quite overtaken by Powell's subsequent conversion). Unfortunately, once launched into politics he loses sight of this thread,



MONDAY BOOK

LIKE THE ROMAN: THE LIFE OF ENOCH POWELL
BY SIMON HEFFER
WEIDENFELD & NICOLSON, £25

treating Powell as just another politician - which he was not.

Heffer's second great asset is Powell's own papers. But these turn out to be less revealing than expected. Powell's letters to his - surely bewildered? - parents, from Cambridge, from Sydney (where he was professor of Greek at 25) and during the war, do shed light on his emerging beliefs and ambitions. Other correspondence reveals two intensely homoerotic relationships which inspired Powell's tamely Housmanesque verse, and fills out the story of his comically misconceived pursuit of his first female love (a jolly hunting girl, who very sensibly refused him).

Here again, the early chapters are the

best. When it comes to politics, the papers add remarkably little to the published record.

What Heffer does have is the text of every speech, article and letter Powell ever wrote, and these he gives us in extenso. Powell, who believed that a politician lived by his words, would have approved; but the result is a monumental compilation: 960 pages of text, which is not only too long, but also relentlessly chronological and largely uncritical. This is more an exhaustive chronicle than a reflective biography. It is a heroic saga reminiscent of Michael Foot on Bevan (without the purple prose) or AJP Taylor on Beaverbrook (without the epigrams).

Heffer sees Powell unquestioningly as a prophet without honour for most of his life, who lived long enough to see his heresies accepted as the conventional wisdom. But this is a disciple's view. In truth the record is mixed.

On top of a hundred other controversies, from nuclear deterrence to the authorship of Shakespeare, on which he took up stimulating but usually perverse positions, Powell devoted his life to three great causes: promoting free-market economics, reversing coloured immigration and opposing British integration with Europe. On the first, undeniably, he was the pathfinder for a counter-revolution in political economy. It was an astonishing intellectual achievement by a self-taught economist, applying unsparring logic to the wishful illusions of collectivists and corporatists. He had some grounds for thinking he deserved the

Nobel Prize as much as Milton Friedman. Yet he only predicted the counter-revolution; he did not cause it.

He was unquestionably courageous to highlight the potential social problem he saw developing in his constituency; but the apocalyptic way he did so was calculated to exacerbate tensions, not alleviate them. Powell gave every impression of wishing to see his grim prophecies of inevitable civil war fulfilled; but he was quite simply wrong to believe that "human nature" made racial assimilation impossible. Moreover, he never confronted the historic irony that immigration was only his beloved empire coming home to roost.

Finally, Powell was undoubtedly clear-sighted, from his British nationalist perspective, in drawing attention to the federalist implications of the Treaty of Rome long before anyone else recognised them.

He anticipated the arguments of the Nineties Europhobes at a time when they were all (Thatcher, Benn, Ridley, Lamont et al) enthusiastically pro-Europe. But the fact that others have picked up his arguments does not make them right. The momentum towards integration is irresistible, and the British electorate - though it is instinctively insular - does not in the last resort share his mystical belief in the uniqueness of England.

Asked in 1982 if he was a Christian, Powell replied: "I am an Anglican". Even his avowed religion was subordinate to his exalted sense of nationhood. But it is dangerous nonsense to make the nation state the highest human value. Fortunately, the British do not believe any such thing. The ultimate paradox of Powell is that he who thought himself so English was in his fanaticism utterly un-English.

JOHN CAMPBELL

The reviewer is the biographer of Edward Heath and is now writing a biography of Margaret Thatcher

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MONDAY POEM

TO A FAT LADY SEEN FROM A TRAIN: TRIOLET
BY FRANCES CORNFORD

O why do you walk through the fields in gloves,
Missing so much and so much?
O fat white woman whom nobody loves,
Why do you walk through the fields in gloves,
When the grass is soft as the breast of doves
And shivering-sweet to the touch?
O why do you walk through fields in gloves,
Missing so much and so much?

Our poems this week come from 'Field Days', edited by Angela King and Sue Clifford for Camman Ground (Camman Ground, £8.95). Frances Cornford's 'Selected Poems' are published by Enitharmon Press

6/OBITUARIES

John
Hanson

WHEN JOHN Hanson met Eric Morecambe, the comedian was in cracking form. Bespectacled Eric looked Hanson up and down and said, "Left your camel in the car park, have you?" Everyone laughed; everyone understood, for John Hanson was the swashbuckling hero of *The Desert Song*.

He was born John Watts, in Osbawa, Ontario, in 1922, to English parents. When he was three the family moved to England, where John was educated at Dumfries Academy. His headmaster recognised his talent as a boy soprano and recommended him to the Scottish Broadcasting Corporation. It was there that he made his debut, at the age of 12. He was offered a scholarship to the Milan Conservatoire, but the Second World War put paid to that. For the rest of his life Hanson regretted losing that chance to become an operatic tenor.

During the war he served in the RAF but was invalided out. He sang for the troops and was offered a long-term singing engagement but his father insisted he follow another career path - a proper job. So he qualified and worked as an engineer.

His father was a test driver for Donald Campbell and thus close to the racing scene. Hanson acquired a love of beautiful cars, which he drove at high speed at all times. He gave his first professional performance at Birmingham Town Hall, in 1946. Two years later he featured in *Variety Bandbox* and *Songs From The Shows*.

In 1948 Hanson married Brenda Stokes (it was love at first sight), a petite and pretty blonde, with a twinkling laugh. Although by nature a very private man, as he became more famous he was persuaded by Brenda to meet the demands for interviews, which he hated, especially with the spectacular journalist Jean Rook of the *Daily Express*. (He described her as "lethal"). After that interview it was Brenda, as

usual, who sent the journalist a bouquet of flowers and a note of thanks, signed "John Hanson". Brenda arranged all his itineraries and always travelled with him. Together they brought up two delightful children, Stella, now Head of Radio Two, and John Jr, a brilliant lawyer. John Hanson loved his family. In summer seasons, during the school holidays, he would bundle them all (hamsters included) into the family car and take them to whatever resort he was playing. At other times, after each week's show he would drive all night in order to spend time with them and tend his beloved flowers and garden at their beautiful Weybridge home.

Whenever he went shopping girls rushed from behind their counters to mob their idol

Hanson was best known for his performance as the Red Shadow in *The Desert Song*, which led to his being dubbed "the last of the matinee idols". He and his friend and fellow actor, Clifford Mollison, each put up £2,000 to put *The Desert Song* on, and it opened at the Opera House in Manchester in 1957. It was a gamble for both of them. "Pop" had taken over and musicals had declined. The show, however, was an immediate success.

Although scheduled to run for only 12 weeks, their tour of the provinces lasted 10 months. After the success of the original *Desert Song*, Hanson toured with *The Student Prince* (1959), *The Vagabond King* (1960), *Maid of the Mountains* (1964)



'The last of the matinee idols': Hanson in *The Student Prince* at the Cambridge Theatre in London, 1968

and *The World of Four Novello* (1965).

Always, he concentrated on the provinces where he formed his own company. In 1966 he starred in *When You're Young*, for which he wrote the book and lyrics. He revived *The Desert Song* many times but it wasn't until 1968 that this serious, ambitious man achieved every actor's dream. He took the show to the West End and, gambling again that it would succeed, invested his own money. It did; it was a huge success. "I've waited 20 years to get into the West End and it's very nice to arrive like this."

Colocidentally, Topol was playing in *Fiddler on the Roof* at Her Majesty's Theatre. The cartoonists

had a field day with the "Arab Red Shadow" and "The Jew".

The Desert Song was succeeded at the Cambridge Theatre by *The Student Prince*. Again, the shows were presented, in Blackpool, for the summer seasons of 1969 and 1970. For the next decade Hanson toured in romantic musicals: *Lilac Time*, *The Dancing Years* and *Glamorous Nights*.

There were concert performances too, at the Festival Hall and the Albert Hall. He appeared many times in pantomime, usually as Robin Hood. He broadcast more than 1,400 times and made 21 LPs (winning a Golden Disc in 1977). *The Student Prince* alone sold more

than 300,000 copies. His autobiography, *Me and My Red Shadow*, was published in 1980.

Hanson's career as a singer made him a household name. With his chiselled good looks, black hair and glorious voice, he always had a flapper following. Whenever he went shopping girls rushed from behind their counters to mob their idol. Even the middle-aged ladies queuing at the stage door went weak at the knees at the sight of him.

He lived as he drove, at full throttle. He was a highly strung, but compassionate man, who lived for his work and family. His last public performance was at St Paul's, the ac-

tors' church, at the service of thanksgiving for his long-time friend Clifford Mollison. He sang the "Goodbye" song from *The White Horse Inn*, a song which Mollison had sung in 1936 at the Coliseum and with which he was forever associated. The congregation were so moved that, unanimously, they rose and gave John Hanson a standing ovation.

AVRIL MOLLISON

John Watts (John Hanson), actor and singer: born Osbawa, Canada 31 August 1922; married 1948 Brenda Stokes (one son, one daughter); died Shepperton, Surrey 3 December 1998.

Mikio
Oda

IN HIS book *A World History of Track and Field Athletics* (1964), Roberto Quercetani, then president of the Association of Track and Field Statisticians, described Mikio Oda as "the pioneer champion of Japanese athletics. Few athletes, if any, have made a greater contribution to the advancement of athletics in their own country."

Oda became the first Asian to win an Olympic gold medal when he triumphed in the 1928 triple jump competition in Amsterdam, paving the way for a Japanese domination of that event which led to further gold medals for them in 1932 and 1936.

He first competed as a schoolboy at the Games of 1924, when he finished a creditable sixth in a strong field. "During that great Olympic final in Paris he gathered many useful hints," Quercetani wrote. And:

After returning home he worked more and more assiduously to develop his potential. In doing so he acted as an eye-opener in making his countrymen realise fully their natural vocation for the jumping events.

He was born near Hiroshima in 1905. For a triple-jumper Oda was small in stature, but what he lacked in length of stride he more than made up for with incredibly sturdy legs that gave him extra "spring" between the three phases of the discipline. His build also helped him withstand the strains the event places on knees and ankles.

Oda was a fine all-round jumper who set national records in the long high jump, and after graduating from Waseda University in Tokyo he worked as a sports writer for *Asahi*, Japan's leading national newspaper. In October 1931, in the same city, he set a world triple jump record of 15.58m, but early in 1932 he was injured and was unable to perform at his best in the Los Angeles Olympics.



A fine all-round jumper

For a time Oda was a professor in the athletics department of his old university and after the war was appointed as national coach to the Japanese Olympic team, a position he held until the Tokyo Games of 1964. The pole that bore the Olympic flag throughout those Games was 15.21m high in honour of Oda's winning mark in Amsterdam 36 years earlier.

In the Fifties he became a founding member of the International Track and Field Coaches Association, as well as the IATFS. Every year since 1967 the Oda Memorial Meeting in Hiroshima has been held on 29 April, a national holiday in Japan.

ADAM SZRETER

Mikio Oda, athlete, athletics administrator: born Hiroshima prefecture, Japan 30 March 1905; married (two sons); died Kamakura, Japan 2 December 1998.

Albert Gore Snr

AMERICAN POLITICS revels in its dynasties, and history may yet rank Albert Gore Senior as the founder of no small one of his own.

He was a Democratic Congressman and Senator from Tennessee of considerable distinction. His son Albert Junior followed in his footsteps, before being elected as Bill Clinton's Vice-President in 1992. There remains a good chance (though perhaps not as good as a couple of years ago) that the elder Gore will posthumously find himself the father of the 43rd President of the United States.

The Gores were a quintessential settler family who travelled west across the Appalachians after America's independence, clearing land for a farm. "They started chopping timber," Albert Sr once remarked. "I still chop a little now and then when my fences need mending."

His entry into politics owed a good deal to fortune. Defeated in 1931 in his first bid for public office - the post of superintendent of schools in Smith County Tennessee, Gore returned to the family farm. But a year later the man who defeated him died, and Gore was nominated to the post.

He would not let a chance slip twice. After completing a night-

class law course in Nashville, he became the state's labour commissioner before being elected to the House of Representatives in 1936.

But it was as a Senator that he made his most lasting mark. Gore was elected in 1952, as Dwight Eisenhower recaptured the White House for the Republicans after a 20-year gap. Quickly Gore emerged as a rare liberal among the mostly neanderthal southern Democrats. He opposed McCarthyism, and in 1956 he was one of only three Senators from the region (the others were Lyndon Johnson and his fellow Tennessean Estes Kefauver) to vote against the so-called "Southern Manifesto" opposing racial desegregation.

That year Gore was tipped as a possible Vice-Presidential running mate for Adlai Stevenson - as indeed he was briefly for John F. Kennedy in 1960. But his positions were often too liberal for the south, the main reason for having him on the ticket in the first place.

He came from the fringes of the Bible Belt, but was an opponent of compulsory prayers in public schools. He advocated stricter gun laws, and fought the development of anti-ballistic missiles. Most courageously of all, he opposed American



The beginning of a political dynasty: the two Albert Gores, father and son

But his father's political career was over. Calling his defeat "a marginal error on the part of the people of Tennessee", he took a job as president of a coal company owned by his old friend Armand Hammer, the head of Occidental Petroleum. Later on he ran a successful cattle-breeding farm in his home state, and proudly followed his son's climb up the greasy pole.

If Al Junior, Washington-born and Harvard-educated, retains only a faint veneer of rural Tennessee, his father exuded it from every pore. As befitted a man whose primary education was in a one-room shack school in a hamlet rejoicing in the name of Opossum Hollow, he took his hillbilly style to Capitol Hill - sometimes breaking off his speeches for a short interlude on the fiddle.

Asked during the 1992 campaign about his possible role in proceedings, Al Gore replied, "Well, if they get hard pressed and want a hillbilly speech, I might be able to deliver one or two."

RUPERT CORNWELL

Albert Gore, politician: born Granville, Tennessee 26 December 1907; married 1937 Pauline La Fon (one son, and one daughter deceased); died Carthage, Tennessee 5 December 1998.

Sir Charles Bennett

CHARLES BENNETT once said: "I am a Maori because I feel like a Maori. I am also glad to be known as a New Zealander. Like most Maori of my generation, my ancestral heritage is very precious to me." He was not only one of the most outstanding New Zealanders of his generation but was a trail-blazer for his people, succeeding in many areas at a time when Maoris rarely made it to the top.

The second Maori to go to Oxford, he was the first of his race to serve as High Commissioner to the Federation of Malaya 1959-63, and the first to head a major political party, being president of the Labour Party in the 1970s.

One of New Zealand's most distinguished soldiers, he rose through the ranks to command the 28th Maori Battalion with the 2nd New Zealand Expeditionary Force in the North African campaign, and was awarded the Distinguished Service Order in Tunisia in 1943.

He then had an equally distinguished career in the New Zealand civil service, specialising in developing welfare and education policies for his people as Assistant Secretary of the Maori Affairs Department.

Like many Maoris of his generation, he did not have an easy start to life. He was born in 1913, the second eldest of 18 children of the Right Rev Frederick Bennett, the first Maori Anglican bishop. He was brought up by his maternal grandparents in what he later described as a typically poor rural, Maori environment of the time. He started school in the tiny Bay of Plenty village of Maketu, and claimed that he hardly spoke a word of English until he was sent to the elite Te Aute College for Maori boys at the age of 13.

Three years later, he won a government scholarship to Christchurch Teachers' Training College, going on to Canterbury University where he graduated with a BA and Diploma in Education in 1938. He taught briefly and also worked as a

radio announcer before enlisting when the Second World War broke out. He rose rapidly from private to lieutenant-colonel, becoming the youngest battalion commander in the 2nd NZEF when he took over the Maori Battalion at the age of 29.

His spell in command was brief; he was seriously wounded when he stepped on a mine at the Battle of

electorate would prove fatal. In 1970, when he was seeking a fourth term in the Senate, Gore found himself in one of the nastiest campaigns in Tennessee history against William Brock, who triumphed by mocking Gores's support of civil

rights and his criticism of the Vietnam war.

So unpleasant were proceedings that Al Jr whose ambitions were plain from his earliest years, briefly decided to pursue a different line of work.

man and laying a foundation for close bilateral relations between two countries that had only a British colonial background in common. Tunku was instrumental in 1964 in making Bennett the first non-Malay to be awarded a Malaysian knighthood.

Back home again, he rejoined the Maori Affairs Department as assistant secretary where he remained

than those reserved for Maori candidates and voters.

He did not succeed in winning the seat of his birthplace, Rotorua, but was elected vice-president of the party in 1970. He went on to become its first Maori president after being urged to put his name forward by the Labour Prime Minister of the day, Norman Kirk.

Knighthood in 1975 for services to the public, especially the Maori people, he remained active in Maori affairs into his eighties, retaining what one observer described as "immense dignity, courtesy and care". Three years ago he criticised the government for its proposal to put a NZ\$1bn cap on compensation for Maoris whose land was taken away by successive administrations. Speaking at a ceremony to honour Maoris who had fought in two world wars, he asked: "If the events of today had been transferred to 1939, would we have volunteered?"

He was buried with full military honours and left a lasting impact on the

army he served. Earlier this year, he gave a blessing to a new haka (originally a war dance, now used for ceremonial purposes) adopted by the army. And the New Zealand Defence Force has decided to change its and the army's official badge, which features two crossed swords, in his honour. At Bennett's funeral, Lt-Gen Tony Brisk, Chief of the Defence Force, announced that one of the swords will be replaced by a taiaha (a traditional Maori spear) to reflect the partnership between Maoris and pakeha (Europeans) in the forces.

DAVID BARBER

Charles Moihiri Te Arawaka Bennett, soldier, diplomat, civil servant: born Rotorua, New Zealand 27 July 1913; DSO 1943; NZ High Commissioner to the Federation of Malaya 1959-63; Vice-President, NZ Labour Party 1970-73; President 1973-76; KI 1975; married 1947 Elizabeth Stewart (one stepson, one stepdaughter); died Tauranga, New Zealand 26 November 1998.

Deirdre Bland

DEIRDRE BLAND was a famous beauty and a beacon of style, both in herself and in the art gallery she ran in her home in Sussex in the 1970s and 1980s.

She was born Deirdre Hart-Davis in 1909. Her mother Sybil was the sister of Duff Cooper and the descendant of the Irish actress Mrs Jordan; as a great admirer of the Irish playwrights, she named Deirdre after Synge's "Deirdre of the Sorrows".

Deirdre's brother Rupert, two years her senior and later a distinguished publisher, declared of his sister: "I loved her from the moment she was born". As children they were drawn by Augustus John and painted by William Nicholson. Rupert's nickname for Deirdre was "Tow", her name for hair when a baby - hers was handsomely blond - and she called him Mit. As adults they exchanged letters once a week right up until she died.

Deirdre grew up into an extremely good-looking and commanding beauty, nearly 6 ft tall; Cecil Beaton was among those who photographed her. She was married at the age of 19 to Ronald Balfour in Westminster Cathedral. He was considerably older than her, having been a midshipman at the Battle of Jutland. When the Second World War broke out he was employed at the Admiralty. After their flat in London was bombed they lived in the country; he was killed in a car accident on the way there when, after working all night, he fell asleep at the wheel.

Deirdre then went with her two daughters Susan and Annabel to New York, where she worked in the British Information Services. Returning to London at the end of the war, she met and married her second husband, David Wolfers, who had been in a German POW camp. It was at this time that her brother started his publishing firm, Rupert Hart-Davis.

Whether at her home in Chelsea or her cottage in Sussex, Deirdre entertained friends, many from the artistic world such as Gerald Barry, Hugh Casson and Lawrence Gowing. Her third husband, Anthony Bland, was an academic lawyer, and when in the Sixties he became Professor of Law at Sussex University they moved to a house near Lewes. Some years later he took up a professorship in Jamaica and they separated.

Deirdre then moved into Lewes and started the Southover Gallery in her house, which she ran from 1973 to 1987, showing a number of artists including Duncan Grant, Quentin Bell, Julian Trevelyan, Mary Fedden, John Nash and Eric Rolfe. A feather in her cap was the occasional invitation from Glyndebourne Opera to mount its foyer summer art shows. The gallery made quite an impact in the community and continued for a time after Deirdre's marriage to a local widower, William Inman. He nursed her devotedly when the advent of Parkinson's disease led her to give up the gallery, and she bore her illness for a number of years with great fortitude after his death.

DAVID WOLFERS

Deirdre kept her youthful spirit to the end, writes Graham Hughes. Even when she could barely speak after a stroke, and with the terrible debility

of Parkinson's disease, her lively eye would suddenly flash with spirit and humour. She loved to hear about other people's lives from the prison of her bed.

Her house was always a haven to go into - full of warmth and colour and delightful objects. She had an artist's eye and delighted in anything beautiful, whether paintings, plants or pottery. She loved clothes too, a love which harked back to her dashing champagne days. She was a professional model in the 1930s when her first husband was a penniless champagne salesman. They could not afford the luxury meals which usually accompany that drink, so she used to say with a laugh that during those years her normal sustenance consisted of grand champagne with humble bread and butter.

She felt unloved by her mother, and had a lonely childhood, even spending a term in a nunnery. All this caused her to decide that animals were more reliable than grown-ups. But the family social life was quite a whirl, as her brother Rupert records with unpretentious charm in his biography of their mother, *The Arms of Time* (1979), which is dedicated to Deirdre.

Its pages are ornamented with some of the most glamorous names of the political, literary and artistic world, many of whom became lasting friends of Deirdre in later life. If only because they were more or less close relations - Asquiths, Cecil Day Lewis, Wyndham Lewis, Augustus John, Duncan Grant, the Keynes and Darwin families, Quentin and Vanessa Bell, Angelica Garnett, Ursula Mommens, Julian Trevelyan, Mary Fedden, Peggy Ashcroft, Paul Robeson, Diana and Duff Cooper.

A lovely link between Deirdre's literary and her artistic life, was her neighbour and great friend, the artist Trekkie Parsons. She had helped her husband at Chatto and Windus, which he founded, and Leonard and Virginia Woolf with the Hogarth Press, and used to have a "pillow conversation" by telephone with Deirdre every night, when they would discuss their experiences, recalling the frailties and quirks of their exceptional friends.

She was a model in the 1930s when her first husband was a penniless champagne salesman. She used to say that her sustenance consisted of champagne with bread and butter.

Rupert once told me that he had been a publisher for 35 years and had lost money in every year except one. I asked Deirdre how such an intelligent, much-loved brother could be so financially undemanding. With a laughing glint in her eye, she explained that Rupert had many wonderful friends and he said "yes" to all of them when they asked him to publish their books, even when he knew they couldn't write. He could not bear to hurt anyone's feelings, a trait which he shared with Deirdre.

Probably her first real job was as a model, then a less normal career for the well born than it has subsequently be-



Deirdre photographed by Man Ray in c1930

come. In that capacity, she worked for the best couturiers like Molyneux, and was photographed by rising stars such as Man Ray in Paris in 1929 and 1930. So she was able to add to her family's rich cultural life another strand more personal to her than that of fashion.

She was a voracious reader, and her living room was lined with thousands of books. When you pulled one out of its shelf and started to discuss it with her,

verting them in *Erchinge and Murt*. She loved parties and people as well as paintings, and the gallery became a big success. Helped by William Inman, who became her husband, she would sit at a desk in the middle of the gallery, delicately observing her visitors and deciding who might make a purchase, and who was there simply for the fun.

Sales were always good: there were sometimes as many as 130 red blobs on the picture frames during the run of a single exhibition. Always she helped struggling creative people. When she had to close the gallery in 1987, she showed work by 36 artists, all of them her friends, some indication of her amazing personal magnetism.

She exhibited Duncan Grant several times, always with a special sort of trepidation: she knew that he had difficulty in preventing his trousers falling down. Once, he was sensibly sitting in her armchair when an important visitor started talking to him, and a friend said: "Why don't you stand up, Duncan?" "Better not" was Deirdre's decisive comment, with a meaningful look at his expensive waistline.

Deirdre Phyllis Hart-Davis, gallery owner, born London 5 July 1909; married 1930 Ronald Balfour (died 1941; two daughters); 1945 David Wolfers (married dissolved 1949); 1950 Anthony Bland (one daughter; marriage dissolved 1971); 1984 William Inman (died 1994); died Lewes, East Sussex 23 November 1998.

GAZETTE

ROYAL ENGAGEMENTS

The Queen and The Duke of Edinburgh attend the Service for the Installation of the Dean of Windsor, the Right Reverend David Conner, at St George's Chapel, Windsor Castle; Princess Margaret also attends. The Duke of Edinburgh, Honorary Freeman and Liverman, attends the Worshipful Company of Coachmakers and Coach Harness Makers' Christmas Reception at Armoury House, London EC1. The Prince of Wales attends the Royal Variety Performance at the Lyceum Theatre, London WC2. The Princess Royal, Chancellor, London University, visits Birbeck College, London WC1 on the 175th Anniversary of its foundation; The Duchess of Gloucester, Patron, National Asthma Campaign, attends a Reception at St James's Palace to mark the acceptance by Mr John Major MP of the Presidency of the Campaign. Princess Alexandra attends a Celebration of Christmas Concert in aid of the New Bridge at the Guards' Chapel, Wellington Barracks, London SW1.

CHANGING OF THE GUARD

The Household Cavalry Mounted Regiment mounts the Queen's Life Guard at Horse Guards, 11am.

BIRTHDAYS

Sir Fred Atkinson, economist, 79; Miss Ellen Burstyn, actress, 66; Professor Noam Chomsky, linguist, 70; Lord Elystan-Morgan, circuit judge and former MP, 66; Mr David Evans, trade unionist, 63; Mr Kaffee Fassett, textile designer, 61; Professor Lawrence Freedman, war historian, 50; Professor Sir Abraham Goldberger, physician, 75; Professor Norman Gower, principal, Royal Holloway and Bedford New College, London, 58; Sir Bryan Hopkin, economist, 84; Mr Geoff Lawson, cricketer, 40; The Countess of Limerick, Chairman Emeritus, British Red Cross Society, 63; Mr Mike Nolan, singer, 44; Mr Edmund Ros, bandleader, 88; Sir Sydney Samuelson, first British Film Commissioner, 73; Dr Marin Soares, former president of Portugal, 74; The Rev Ronald Trounson, parish priest, and former principal, St Chad's College, Durham, 73; Mr Eli Wallach, actor, 83; Miss Helen Watts, concert and opera singer, 71.

ANNIVERSARIES

Births: Gian Lorenzo Bernini, sculptor, 1598; Allan Cunningham, poet, 1793; Joseph Severn, painter, 1793; Theodor Ambrasse Hubert Schwann, physiologist, 1810; William James Linton, wood

engraver, 1812; Carl Anton Florian Eckert, pianist, violinist, conductor and composer, 1820; Leopold Kronecker, mathematician, 1823; Hermann Gustav Götz, composer, 1840; Pietro Mascagni, composer, 1863; Willa Sibert Cather, novelist, 1876; Charles Rudolf Fritsch, composer and pianist, 1879; Ernst Toch, composer, 1887; Arthur Joyce Lunel Cary, writer, 1888; Honoré Gabriel de Mirabeau, philosopher and playwright, 1789; Ray Bainter, actress, 1892; Stuart Davis, abstract painter, 1894.

Deaths: Cicero, executed 43 BC; Pope Innocent IV, 1254; Robert Kett, rebel leader, hanged 1549; Adrian Willaert, composer, 1562; Sir Peter Lely (Pieter van der Faes), portrait painter, 1680; Algernon Sidney, republican and patriot, beheaded, 1683; Melindert Hobbema, landscape painter, 1709; Marie-Jeanne Bécu, Comtesse du Barry, mistress of Louis XV, guillotined 1793; Marshal Michel Ney, soldier, executed for treason 1815; William Bligh, captain of the *Bounty*, 1817; Dr John Aikin, writer and physician, 1822; John Flaxman, sculptor, 1823; The Rev Edward Irving, Presbyterian minister and theologian, 1834; William Swainson, naturalist, 1855; Ferdinand-Marie, Vicomte de Lesseps, engineer and diplomat, 1894; Thomas Nast, artist and cartoonist, 1902; Sir Frederick Treves, physician, 1923;

Nicholas Murray Butler, educator, 1947; Rex Ellingwood Beach, novelist, 1949; Kirsten Malfred Flagstad, operatic soprano, 1982; Thornton Niven Wilder, novelist, 1975; Robert Rankin Graves, poet, 1985; Kathleen Harrison, actress, 1995.

On this day: Henry VI of England was crowned King of France, Paris, 1431; the Theatre Royal, Covent Garden (now the Royal Opera House), was opened, 1732; William Pitt the Younger became prime minister, 1783; Delaware became the first of the United States, 1787; the Alhambra Theatre, London, was burned down, 1882; Gilbert and Sullivan's opera *The Gondoliers* was first produced, London, 1889; the Italians were defeated at Amba Alagi by the Abyssinians, 1896; an imperial edict authorised all Chinese to cut their pigtails, 1911; David Lloyd George became British prime minister, 1916; the United States declared war on Austria-Hungary, 1917; the first parliament of the Irish Free State met, electing William Thomas Cosgrave as president, 1922; the parliament of Northern Ireland voted against being included in the Irish Free State, 1922; the opera *The Last Waltz* was staged for the first time in London, 1962; Japanese aircraft attacked Pearl Harbor, 1941; the Ivory Coast became an independent republic, 1960; Apollo 17

was launched from Cape Kennedy, 1972.

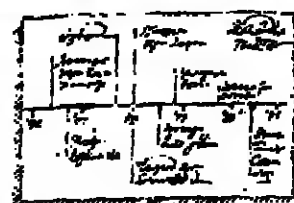
Today is the Feast Day of St Ambrose of Milan, St Bultine or Boethius, St Euthychianus, St Martin of Saunon and St Servus.

LECTURES

National Gallery: Lorne Campbell, "The 15th-century Netherlandish Schools", 1pm. Victoria and Albert Museum: Richard Cook, "The Surface Treatment of Marble Sculpture", 2pm. The Wallace Collection, London W1: Granla Lyster, "Dutch Genre Paintings", 1pm. Deloitte & Touche lecture at the RSA, London WC2: Lord Phillips, Professor Patrick Minford and Sir John Banham, "The Single European Currency and its Consequences for Britain", 6pm. Gresham College, Barnard's Inn Hall, London EC1: Professor E.A. Markham, "West Indian Writers in Britain: are we true to type?", 1pm. Leicester University: Professor W.P. Griffiths, "Metal Oxo Catalysts in Organic Oxidations", 4pm.

APPOINTMENTS

Mr Justice David Steel, to be a Judge of the Admiralty Court and a Judge of the Commercial Court.



HISTORICAL NOTES

LEONARD REYNOLDS

Dog boats in the battle of the narrow seas

THERE SEEMS to have been an increase of interest in the events of the Second World War. But most people born after 1945 are unlikely to recognise the acronym MTB - and the letters MGB probably conjure up only a distant memory of a sporty car.

Things were very different in 1942, at Britain's lowest ebb in that war. At that time, Motor Torpedo Boats and Motor Gun Boats were household words, and their activities, described frequently and colourfully in the press, helped to uplift the morale of the nation. In much the same way as the fighter aircraft of the RAF who had saved Britain in September 1940, the MTBs caught the imagination as these tiny boats attacked the enemy convoys creeping close inshore along the coasts of France and the Low Countries.

The knowledgeable could perhaps picture a 70-foot plywood hull powered by giant engines surrounded by thousands of gallons of highly volatile petrol, and capable of 40 knots. On deck, 10 men, often all under 23, with their two torpedoes and small-calibre guns, closed in to attack much larger enemy targets which poured heavy fire at them. At ridiculously short range, casualties were common, and engines were not difficult to disable - but time after time they disengaged to limp back to base after wreaking their own havoc. In the eyes of the admirals they

seemed expendable, but the effect of their attacks on supply convoys was out of all proportion to their size and cost.

They alone could venture into the shallow, mine-infested waters close to the enemy shores, often illuminated by search-lights and braving shore batteries.

With hindsight, it is surprising that this came about at all. A reactionary Admiralty had shown no interest in small craft after the First World War. When, in the mid-1930s, war again seemed probable, the first moves came from speed-boat designers, who risked their capital to build experimental boats, and forced the Admiralty's hand.

By 1938 a few were ordered and built, but most were sent to bases overseas, and only a handful were available in Home Waters. These early boats were primitive and vulnerable, but much was learned from them.

By 1942 the new boats were benefiting from the technical improvements driven faster by the impetus of war. The harsh experience of operations brought its rewards, honing the skills of officers and men and throwing up leaders with remarkable tactical expertise and proved aggression.

At much the same time, a new breed of boats came into service greatly increasing the flexibility of the force. Whereas all the boats had hitherto been short, the "Dog Boats" were long (115 feet). They were slower, but had a greatly in-

creased gun armament, and four powerful engines which enabled them to operate in more adverse sea conditions. The balance in the "battle of the narrow seas" began to tilt strongly in their favour, so that in Home and Norwegian waters and the Mediterranean their impact on operations increased dramatically.

The development of radar, of non-contact pistols for their torpedoes, and ever more powerful armaments, led to more and more success. The boats played a major part in the Normandy landings, preventing attacks on the constant flow of shipping supplying the Allied armies across the Channel by blockading Le Havre and Cherbourg. The boats were particularly suited to clandestine operations, and one flotilla was employed solely in landing agents, often returning with aircraft forced down in France.

Above all, their war was a triumph of human endeavour. The crews of these boats were young and resilient and most had no previous sea-going experience - but their spirit saw them through as they demonstrated the instincts of Britain's inborn maritime heritage. Truly this was a throw-back to the deeds of the men of Nelson's Navy: like them, they "engaged the enemy more closely".

Leonard Reynolds is the author of *Dog Boats at War* (Sutton Publishing £25)

CASE SUMMARIES

7 DECEMBER 1998

THE FOLLOWING notes of judgments were prepared by the reporters of the All England Law Reports.

Pensions

University of Nottingham v Eyett and anor: Ch Div (Hart J) 13 Nov 1998. The implied term in a contract of employment that an employer would not without reasonable cause conduct itself in a manner likely to damage the relationship of trust and confidence between employer and employee did not include a positive obligation on the part of the employer to warn an employee who wished to take early retirement that he would have received a greater pension if he had deferred his chosen retirement date by one day. *Andrew Strimmonds (Travellers Smith Brothers) for the university; Andrew Stafford (John Holland) for the Pensions Ombudsman.*

VAT

Pegasus Birds Ltd v Comurs of Customs and Excise: QBD (Crown Office List) (Dyson J) 27 Nov 1998. The Commissioners had not acted unreasonably in delaying making a VAT assessment until they had sufficient evidence to ascertain the amount to be assessed. Consequently, an assessment made within one year of receiving such evidence was within the time limit provided by the s 73(6)(b) of the Value Added Tax Act 1994. *David Ewart, James Henderson (Amery Experts) for the taxpayer; Eamonn McNicholas (Sole for C&E) for the Crown.*

Majid and Partners v Comurs

of Customs and Excise: QBD (Crown Office List) (Collins J) 1 Dec 1998.

Where, on an appeal against an assessment to VAT, the appellants had made no specific submissions as to the amount of the assessment, but only as to the question whether they had suppressed part of their sales, it would not have added to the tribunal's burden for it to ascertain whether the appellants were in truth appealing against the assessment or the amount of the assessment. Where the appellant in such circumstances was a layman, if the tribunal did not obtain a clear answer, it should assume that the appeal was covering both questions.

Alan James (Berrymanas as London agents for Hallmans, Cardiff) for the appellants; Hugo Keith (Sole for C&E) for the commissioners.

Trade description

Formula One Anticenters Ltd v Birmingham City Council: QBD (Div Ct) (Rose LJ, Mitchell J) 27 Nov 1998. When goods were returned to their owner or his agent in the ordinary course of business, following completion of a repair, service or other work carried out for reward, the handing back of the goods constituted a supply of goods for the purposes of s 1(1) of the Trade Descriptions Act 1968, and accordingly where the repair, service or work had not been carried out as stated an offence of applying a false trade description contrary to s 14(1) of the Act had been committed. *Kevin De Haan (Kingsford Stacey Blackwell) for the appellants; Ian Croxford QC, Barry Berlin (City*

Sole, Birmingham City Council) for the respondent.

Company director

Secretary of State for Trade and Industry v Kaczer and ors: CA (Stuart-Smith, Thorpe, Robert Walker LJ) 30 Nov 1998.

In proceedings brought by the Secretary of State for Trade and Industry under s 6 of the Company Directors Disqualification Act 1986, the crucial issue in determining *de facto* directorship was whether the person in question had assumed the status and functions of a company director so as to make him responsible, under the Act, as if he were a *de jure* director.

Malcolm Green (Treasury Solicitor) for the Secretary of State; the respondents appeared in person.

Fresh evidence

R v Ali and anor: CA (Crim Div) (Kennedy LJ, Allott, Steel JJ) 27 Nov 1998.

On the bearing of a criminal appeal, once fresh evidence had been admitted pursuant to s 23(2) of the Criminal Appeal Act 1968, it became evidence in the case for all purposes in relation to the appeal or appeals then being heard, even though it might be detrimental to the case of one co-accused. Any other construction of the power granted to the court by s 23 of the 1968 Act could lead to absurdity and manifest injustice.

Anthony Attridge QC (Registrar of Criminal Appeals) for the first appellant; Jeremy Carter-Manning QC (Registrar of Criminal Appeals) for the second appellant; Stephen Coward QC (CPS) for the Crown.

WORDS

CHRISTOPHER HAWTREE

grind, v.

THIS HAS many meanings, among them one diligent, another recreational: of the latter, in 1647, "Digby's Lady takes it ill, that her Lord grinds not at her mill" while Lady Chatterley "had to work the thing herself, grind her own coffee". A use overlooked in every reference work, however, is a recent one that,

in practice, imperils even the celibate. It is the term for nifty skateboarding, rollerblading and the suchlike: we all know that noise

- redolent of a V2s cutting out - which has one seeking the wall or gutter, something which can only get worse with the advent of such devices being built into shoes. One Californian manufacturer did not quite realise what he was saying when asserting, "so far we have less than nine per cent penetration".

Own up: who's seen the Christmas decorations?

WHEN I left you last week I was expressing a certain queasy foreboding at the thought that at any moment my wife would step into the room and announce that the time has come to get out the Christmas decorations.

Well, here we are, another week gone and just 18 fleeting days till Christmas, and still not a peep from her. I don't know how much more of this I can take.

I hate doing the Christmas decorations because, for a start, it means going up into the loft. Lofts are dirty, dark,

disagreeable places. You always find things up there you don't want to find — lengths of gnawed wiring, gaps in the slates through which you can see daylight and sometimes even pop your head, and crates full of useless odds and ends that you must have been out of your mind ever to have bailed up there. Three things alone are certain when you venture into a loft: that you will crack your head on a beam at least twice, that you will get cobwebs draped over your face, and that you will not find what

you went looking for.

So you lower your legs through the hatch and blindly grope for the ladder with your feet. If you stretch your right leg to its furthest extremity, you can just about get a toe to it, which is not much good, of course. Eventually, you discover that if you swing your legs back and forth, like a gymnast on parallel bars, you can get one foot on top of the ladder and then both feet on. This, however, does not represent a great breakthrough because you are now lying at an angle of about 60 degrees and unable to make any further progress. Grunting softly, you try to drag the ladder nearer with your feet, but succeed only in knocking it over, with a crash.

Now you really are stuck. You try to wriggle back up into the loft, but haven't the strength, so you hang by your armpits. You call to your wife, but she doesn't hear you. This is both discouraging and strange. Normally, your wife can hear things that no one else on earth can hear. She can hear a dab of

jam fall on to a carpet two rooms away. She can hear spilled coffee being furtively mopped up with a good bath towel. She can hear dirt being tracked across a clean floor. She can hear you just thinking about doing something you shouldn't do. But get yourself stuck in a loft hatch and suddenly it is as if she has been placed in a soundproof chamber.

So when eventually, an hour or so later, she passes through the upstairs hallway and sees your legs dangling there, it takes her by surprise. "What are you doing?" she says at length.

You squint down at her. "Loft hatch aerobics," you reply with just a hint of sarcasm.

"Do you want the ladder?" "Oh, now there's an idea. Do you know, I've been hanging here for ages trying to think what it is that's missing, and here you've cracked it straight off."

You hear the sound of the ladder being righted and feel your feet being guided down the steps. The hanging has evidently done you good because suddenly you



BRYSON'S AMERICA

remember that the Christmas decorations are not in the loft — never were in the loft — but in the basement, in a cardboard box. Of course! How silly not to have recalled! Off you dash.

Two hours later you find the decorations hidden behind some old tyres and a broken pram. You lug the box upstairs and devote two hours more to untangling strings of lights. When you plug the lights in, naturally they do not work, except for one string that hurls you backwards into a wall with a lively jolt and a shower of

sparks, and then does not work.

You decide to leave the lights and get the tree in from the garage. The tree is immense and prickly. Clutching it in a clumsy bearhug, you gruntingly manhandle it to the back door, fall into the house, get up and press on. As branches poke your cheeks and gums, and sap manages somehow to run backwards up your nose, you blunder through rooms, knocking pictures from walls, clearing tablecloths, upsetting chairs. Your wife, so recently missing and unaccounted for, now seems to be everywhere, shouting confused and lively instructions — "Mind the things! Don't go that way — to that way! To the left! Not your left — my left!" and eventually, in a softer voice, "Oooh, are you all right honey? Didn't you see those steps?" By the time you reach the living room the tree looks as if it has been defoliated by acid rain, and so do you.

It is at this point that you realise that you have no idea

where the Christmas tree stand is. So, sighing, you hike up to town to the hardware store to buy another, knowing that for the next three weeks all the Christmas tree stands you have ever purchased — 23 in all — will spontaneously reappear in your life, mostly by dropping on to your head from a high shelf when you are rooting in the bottom of a cupboard, but occasionally in the middle of darkened rooms or lurking near the top of the hall stairs. If you don't know it already, know it now: Christmas tree stands are the work of the devil and they want you dead. While you are at the hardware store you buy two additional strings of lights. These will not work either.

Eventually, exhausted in both mind and body, you manage to get the tree up, lit and covered with baubles. You stand in the posture of Quasimodo regarding it with a kind of weak loathing.

"Oh, it's lovely!" your wife cries, clasping her hands ecstatically beneath her chin. "Now let's do the outside

decorations," she announces suddenly. "I bought a special treat this year — a life-sized Father Christmas that goes on the chimney. You fetch the 40-ft ladder and I'll open the crate. Oh, isn't this such fun!" And off she skips.

Now you might reasonably say to me: "Why put yourself through all this? Why go up to the loft when you know the decorations won't be there? Why untangle the lights when you know they haven't a chance of working?" And my answer to you is that this is part of the ritual. Christmas wouldn't be Christmas without it.

Which is why I've decided to make a start now even though Mrs Bryson hasn't ordered me to. There are some things you just have to do in life, whether you want to or not.

If you need me for anything, I'll be hanging from the loft.

Extracted from *Notes from a Big Country*, published by Doubleday, price £16.99. Available at bookshops and by mail order from 01624 675137.

Highway robbery on the M6

The Nineties smuggler has a Vauxhall Astra and 500 packs of ciggies in the boot. By Alex Hayes

It's 5am on the north-bound carriageway of the M6 and I'm sitting in the back of a souped-up police Range Rover. Hitting 90mph, we are on the tail of a white Transit. "Why this one?" I ask the officer behind the wheel. "We look for overloaded vehicles," he replies.

"But we also rely on our sixth sense," adds his colleague.

Now we're in front of the suspect, the message "Follow Me" scrolls in red neon across the back of the Range Rover. "Have we caught a smuggler?" "Just credit cards, mate," says the driver, revealing a huge smile. As he drives off, I suggest that it may be a double bluff, that the booze and fags are in the safe. One of the officers

raises an eyebrow, as if to say, "You've been watching too many TV police dramas, son."

I have driven up from London to join West Midlands Police and Customs & Excise officers in a joint operation.

"The purpose is two-fold," explains Bill O'Leary, the press officer for Customs & Excise. "The police are looking for dangerous vehicles (usually overloaded), while we're looking for people who are transporting alcohol and tobacco with intent to sell."

This traditional "seasonal slam" is part of Operation Mistletoe — launched by the Government in early October — and involves raids on shops, pubs and clubs, as well as vehicles. Tonight's exercise is a seven-hour random spot check of vans and heavily loaded cars travelling through

the night on the north-bound carriageway of the M6.

These officers have heard all the stories. Such as the time they stopped a man in Northamptonshire with a vanload of beer. He claimed that it was for his engagement party. But during the interview he couldn't remember the date of the party, couldn't name the venue and, when pressed, couldn't name the woman he was to marry.

The users of cheap, late-night ferries start reaching the Midlands by 3.03am. A C-reg Vauxhall Astra has been brought in. Looking through the goods in the back of the car, O'Leary points to some hand-rolling tobacco. "Two-thirds of the hand-rolling tobacco sold in this country is smuggled," he says. This is not a particularly big market (it is worth £200m a



A customs officer checks out the haul in the back of an impounded vehicle

Andrew Fox

year), but it threatens the livelihood of legitimate traders. "This 5-kg box," he continues, "contains 100 pouches of hand-rolling tobacco, bought at £1.50 a pouch and sold at twice that price. These smugglers stood to make £200 profit on those 5kg alone."

The car is driven by a short man with a Liverpool accent.

He is carrying four passengers (two of whom are clearly drunk), as well as 10,000 cigarettes, four bootleggers' bags full of tobacco, 5kg of hand-rolling tobacco and some beer. The goods have a market value of £10,000, representing £2,000-£3,000 in evaded duty. After rigorous individual interviews, the five men are sent on their way — minus their shopping.

According to the Customs & Excise Department, smuggling has escalated since January 1993, when the single European market opened. In July, the Government gave Customs an extra £35m to tackle the problem. Currently, it is recruiting more than 100 extra staff. "This kind of exercise would not have happened two years ago," says O'Leary. "It wasn't something that Customs & Excise did. But now, we have completely changed our working procedures. Our methods are much more aggressive."

It's now 4am, and a white van pulls up. It is driven by a 28-year-old Mancunian and is loaded with 150 crates of lager. Each crate contains 2,500 pints, which amounts to £1,000 of

evaded tax. This may seem like fairly small-time smuggling, but not to O'Leary. "The notion that a couple of mates will occasionally smuggle goods in to pay for their kids' Christmas is a fabrication. There are no cheeky chappies. Even the 'small-timers', like this man, are organised. This is how they make their living."

So how does the "small-timer" get rid of thousands of cigarettes and cans of beer? "He will probably have a regular list of customers and an informal distribution network," O'Leary says. "He will do the pubs on a Sunday, selling to punters. He may even have a mate who runs an off-licence, which makes it a lot easier."

It's now just gone 4.30am. As I sit in the Customs & Excise Fortakahn sipping a cup of tea, a blue Transit van enters the car park. It is packed to the rafters with crates of beer that are still in their pallets. "That's a sure sign that this van is part of a much larger, more organised set-up," whispers O'Leary. "These sorts of operation are master-minded by a 'Mister Big'. They're like any import-

export business; they have their couriers, their fleet of vehicles, and their drivers — who are getting cash in hand while often claiming benefits."

It is thought that several such criminal organisations exist in the UK. They may own 50 vans between them, travelling back and forth to the Continent all week. The "bosses" are looking at a turnover of £20,000 — £100,000 a week, says O'Leary. And there is increasing evidence that drug barons are getting involved. The financial rewards are nearly as high and the risks are about the same, but the penalties — if they are caught — are much lighter. If you were guilty of a £250,000 excise fraud, for example, you would probably get three to four years in prison. But if you were tried for smuggling a similar amount of cocaine, you would be looking at 10 years.

There is an argument that taxes should be lowered in order to drive the smugglers out of business. According to John Cartledge, spokesman for the Tobacco Manufacturers' Association: "One out of every six corner shops is closing be-

cause of bootlegging. A packet of cigarettes is taxed at 78 per cent. As long as this remains the case, bootlegging will thrive." The Government's position is clear: It is better to lose £1bn from smuggling, than £9bn through tax cuts.

During the seven-hour operation, 40 vehicles were stopped. Four of them had their load seized. In all, 7,000 pints of beer, 20 cases of wine and champagne, 20,000 cigarettes and 400 pouches of hand-rolling tobacco were recovered during the night. The goods have a market value of £20,000, or £10,000 in evaded duty.

The idea that this is a victimless crime is ill-founded. Many hope that the new powers given to Customs — including escalating fines for persistent offenders, the power to seize vehicles, impose heavy fines, withdraw driving licences and recommend prison sentences — will have a major impact. What started out as a small-scale, old-fashioned criminal activity is now a highly organised racket. And the smugglers are cunning. Maybe I should have checked the safe in that van after all.

CLASSIFIED

Legal Notices

IN THE HIGH COURT OF JUSTICE
CHANCERY DIVISION
COMPANIES COURT
No. 986758 of 1998
In the matter of *Rolls-Royce & Partners Finance Limited* and
in the matter of the Companies Act 1985

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that a petition was presented on 24 November 1998 pursuant to the Companies Act 1985 for the winding up of the above-named Company on the grounds of insolvency. The petition is supported by a statement of affairs of the Company dated 24 November 1998, which shows that the Company is unable to pay its debts as they fall due. The petition is supported by a statement of affairs of the Company dated 24 November 1998, which shows that the Company is unable to pay its debts as they fall due. The petition is supported by a statement of affairs of the Company dated 24 November 1998, which shows that the Company is unable to pay its debts as they fall due.

AND NOTICE IS FURTHER GIVEN that the said petition is directed to be heard before the Companies Court Registrar at the Royal Courts of Justice, Strand, London WC2A 2LL on 16 December 1998 at 10.00 am in the forenoon.

Any creditor or shareholder of the said Company desiring to oppose the making of an Order for the winding up of the said Company should appear at the time of hearing in person or by Counsel for that purpose. A copy of the said petition will be furnished in any such person requiring the same by the undersigned Solicitors on payment of the regulated charge for the same. Dated 4th December 1998. Messrs. Freshfields, 60 Fleet Street, London EC4Y 3HS. Tel: 0171 323 7696. Solicitors for the above-named Company.

IN PARLIAMENT

SESSION 1998-99

TRANSPORT SALARIED STAFF ASSOCIATION (EMPLOYMENT OF RULES) ETC.

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that application has been made to Parliament in the present Session by the Transport Salaried Staff's Association for leave to introduce a Bill (hereinafter referred to as "the Bill") under the above name or short title for purposes of which the following is a concise summary.

To amend the rules of the Transport Salaried Staff's Association so that further amendments can be made permitting income from investments which would otherwise be directed to its Provident Fund to be applied for purposes other than the provision of provident benefits.

On and after the 4th December 1998, a copy of the Bill may be inspected and copies thereof obtained at the price of 50p per copy at the offices of the undersigned Parliamentary Agents.

Objection to the Bill may be made by depositing a Petition against it in the Office of the Clerk of the House of Commons, or the Private Bill Office of the House of Commons. The latest date for deposit of such a Petition in the First House will be 6th February 1999.

Further information regarding the deposit of such a Petition may be obtained from either the Office of the Clerk of the House of Commons, or the Private Bill Office of the House of Commons or the undersigned Parliamentary Agents.

Dated this 30th day of November 1998
SHARPE PRITCHARD
Elizabeth House,
Fleetwood Place,
London WC1V 6AG,
Parliamentary Agents

IN THE HIGH COURT OF JUSTICE

CHANCERY DIVISION

COMPANIES COURT

IN THE MATTER OF *BALTIKA INSURANCE COMPANY (UK) LIMITED*

AND IN THE MATTER OF THE COMPANIES ACT 1985

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the Order of the High Court of Justice (Chancery Division) dated 24th day of November 1998 confirming the reduction of the capital of the Company by the cancellation of 21,999,999 "A" Ordinary Shares of £1 each and 21,000 "B" Ordinary Shares of £100 each and the consequent of the Share Premium Account was registered by the Registrar of Companies on 2nd December 1998.

Dated this 7th day of December 1998
David Arnold Cooper,
11 Blandford Place,
London EC4Y 6AD
Solicitors to the Company

COLCUT DIAMOND DRILLING LIMITED
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Boreholes, London Road,
London, W1A 1AA. Tel: 020 7460 1000.
NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN, pursuant to Section 90 of the Companies Act 1985, that a meeting of creditors of the above named company will be held at 8.00 am on 11 December 1998 at 15.00 hrs for the purpose mentioned in Section 90, 100 and 101 of the said Act.

Bernard Horling and Malcolm Cullen of 8200 City Way, 8 Baker Street, London, W1A 1AA, are qualified to act as Insolvency Practitioners in relation to the above company and will furnish creditors with a statement of affairs of the company and a statement of the company's affairs as a voluntary request.

Dated 26 November 1998
By Order of the Board
LINDA CLAY Director

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The sexiest bloke on the box...

Continued from page 1
else than himself. At 12, he came to London to appear at the Bush, in a heavy play about Aleister Crowley. "There was a naked man in it. I had to run, or swearing and cursing."

He left school at 16 and got his big break as the lead in the National Theatre's production of Neil Simon's *Brighton Beach Memoirs*. Here he met his wife, the actor Lisa Jacobs. "I just thought: 'She's nice.' I was playing a character who was obsessed with his cousin Nora, and she was Nora. It was great when it happened for real. Fantastic."

He went on to do three of Shakespeare's plays — *A Winter's Tale*, *Cymbeline*, *The*



Tempest — for Peter Hall, but it wasn't really his bag.

"I just wasn't meant to do Shakespeare. I'm not vocally equipped; I've got this flat, nasal, East Anglian voice. I got to understand the fantastic words Shakespeare wrote, but never got to fly with them."

He wasn't, initially, that keen on playing *Bohemia* in *Our Mutual Friend*. "I thought I'd do terrible Period Acting." What, as encouraged by the BBC's *Bornet* Department? "Yes. I thought I was going to be awful." You weren't, though. You were gorgeous.

"Oh, thank you... but it wasn't easy. I had these huge, convoluted sentences. Then I realised it was a matter of finding the truth in it. If you do that, you don't have to worry about, say, giving a performance that's too big or too small."

He's quite earnest, as I said. Anyway, he has just finished filming a drama for Carlton TV, in which he plays a priest. Next, there's the possibility in February of a British film made with American backing. Now, though, he's off to pick up Martha. I get a little hug, and off he goes, while I race home. I don't like to leave my car keys for long. They got lonely and upset and so clingy, it's almost murder getting them off to school the next day.

الاحد من الاحد



Derek and Rohini Barnes, with their sons, Niraj (left) and Himat - both Christian and Hindu faiths are practiced in their home

Photograph: Ray Riley

Uniting our faiths with love

A FAMILY AFFAIR

Derek Barnes, 54, a Church of England vicar, has been married to Rohini, 40, a committed Hindu, for 18 years. Rohini was born in Zambia and moved to England when she was 17 years old. They live in Southall, West London, and have two children, Himat, 14, and Niraj, 11. Their commitment to two different faiths has caused some criticism within their community

I met Rohini when I was working as a director of an overseas student hostel in west London. I'd established a rule that I wouldn't go out with any students, but I broke that rule when I met Rohini. Our relationship in fact seemed very natural; we got to know each other as friends, and then it developed into something else. The fact she was Hindu didn't feel like anything out of the ordinary, probably because I'd been in west London for seven or eight years in a multi-cultural context all the time.

We did discuss our faiths from an early stage. One of the things that attracted me was the way she talked about her religion. She told me all about the Hindu holy books, and how they're sort of fairy stories. I was already learning a lot from other faiths, and this one seemed very attractive to me.

Also, Rohini was educated in a convent in Africa and knew a great deal about the Christian faith, which meant we both had open expectations. There were no problems for us, only for other people. Soon after we met, some of my colleagues started to put pressure on me, and said that they'd be happier if she converted. That's the assumption, particularly among the evangelical wing of the Christian church.

But we accepted that when we married, we'd keep our separate

faiths; we never saw them as two watertight compartments, but ones that would flow into each other.

So Rohini would come to church and play the part of the vicar's wife and all the major festivals. We saw no problem in being true to our own faiths and to each other's. It seemed to fit in well with my Christian background, which is very liberal, and also the Hindu faith, which is very including.

Spiritually, her family had no problem with our relationship. Culturally, though, they didn't approve. They believed in arranged marriages and were unhappy about our marriage, partly because she was the only girl in the family. Also, she was brought up in Zambia, and the only white males they'd come across at that time were South African racist Boer types.

Anyway, we decided to go ahead with a church wedding and incorporated one or two Hindu and African elements into the service. Then we had a Hindu service when Rohini was five months pregnant with our first son.

After our marriage, I moved to a parish where there were a number of evangelical Christians. Some were unhappy that she hadn't converted. But I think if there's a little bit of opposition from outsiders, it tends to bring you closer together. When we first moved to Southall, a local newspaper did an article about us and a retired clergyman then wrote an abusive letter, which was rather sad. He asked how I could consider marrying people when I hadn't converted my wife. But it made us feel that if he was unhappy we must be doing something right.

When we had children, we wanted them to be able to straddle both faiths into adulthood. The older one, though, is pretty definite about being Hindu and the younger one doesn't really know where he stands, but goes to the Hindu temple more than to church.

That's partly because they're very close to their mum and also, I think, because they feel the Indian-ness of their identity, living in Southall. I'm impressed with the maturity of our elder one and how it all hangs together for him. I'm not

disappointed at all that he's Hindu - it's not a competition. I want the children to be happy, and be true to themselves.

On the surface, there's a huge difference between Christianity and Hinduism. Hinduism worships many different gods, and Christianity is monotheistic. Yet Hindus see them all as the incarnation of one God-head, just as Christians see Jesus as an incarnation of God.

We always discuss these different aspects, and seeing a contrast makes you go back to the roots of what you believe. Rather than accepting your faith parrot-fashion, it helps you to work through it, so you know what it really means.

Rohini

Falling in love with a British reverend really was the last thing I'd planned for. I knew it would be difficult for my family. When I told my father, he was very upset. They didn't come to the wedding, but six months after we married, we went to see them. It was reconciled pretty

quickly once they met Derek - and when we left, I remember my father hugging me and saying that everything he'd said should be forgotten. It was so nice.

It was still pretty difficult in the hostel where Derek was working. Some of them weren't very pleased, because they felt I should convert. There was a lot of pressure on Derek. I found that painful, and felt rejected, but I tried to take it in my stride because I loved my husband.

Looking back, I was very isolated and naive. I remember when I first married thinking, "How am I even going to be a Hindu when I'm all on my own?"

All through that time we spoke a lot to each other if things were hurting us, or we weren't feeling too good. For me, there was the gradual realisation that I needed to have a family. We were living in Kilburn at the time, and I wasn't used to being so alone. My only contact with the outside world was the local parish. And some of them could be difficult - as well as believing I should convert, they believed I should have converted my family too.

For me, though, I needed to say: "I am Indian, I am Hindu - that's my identity." It was very important to spell that out to people; the community and the local parish. The response was very mixed and it was then that I discovered that Christians could be very harsh; I don't know if it's the Christian/Hindu issue, or the English/Asian issue that worried them most. They kept saying to me: "Jesus says, 'You can only get to God through me.' I expected them to be more tolerant, not as critical and condemning. We did have quite an amazing reaction. People have been horrid - we still have people praying for us because I'm not 'Christian'."

For a time, they wanted me to stay away from "baby Christians" - people who had just been converted. I really have no idea why.

These issues have never been a problem for us, only for other people, it seems. We're never confused about which faith we believe in. It's not a case of being half this or half that - it's always been very clear to the children that I'm Hindu and Derek is Christian. I suppose I have

stepped more in his direction because I've come to Britain - I'd have done that anyway, because things are so different compared to Africa.

We have lots of discussions about our faiths. I always think I'm right, and so does Derek. But we respect each other's point of view. When we got married, part of the service read, "Till death us do part", which I couldn't understand. Because of my faith, and our belief in reincarnation, I thought: "But I'm going to live for ever and ever with this guy."

Yet Derek believes in "till death us do part". At one point I thought it meant he didn't really love me. We used to have painful discussions about that, but now I laugh about it and say: "I'll just find someone else next time around, then."

Both the boys have grown up with both religions from the earliest age. I remember my son saying to me when he was very young: "Mummy, are Krishna and Christ friends?" I said: "Of course, they are." I've wanted him to know that you don't have to reject someone just because they've got different beliefs. I also think most religions give the same message: be good, be happy and feed each other. Derek and I always say: it's not the religion that's important; it's the love.

Derek and Rohini will be featured in a BBC1 documentary, 'Everyman: Sleeping with the Enemy', on Sunday, 13 December

INFORMATION UNLIMITED

ALL THE FACTS YOU NEED TO AVOID HEARTACHE

No.17 ALCOHOL AND HANGOVERS

The facts

- Though drinking makes people feel relaxed, happy and even euphoric, alcohol is in fact a depressant. It switches off the part of the brain that controls working days, leading to loss of inhibitions.
- Nearly one in 10 male drinkers and one in 20 female drinkers have an alcohol problem of some kind, and drink is related to 28,000 deaths each year in the UK.
- One in four male hospital admissions is related in some way to alcohol, and alcohol-related health problems cost the National Health Service around £150m per year.
- Alcohol is involved in 40 per cent of domestic violence and in up to 40 per cent of child abuse incidents reported in the UK.
- About 65 per cent of suicide attempts are linked with excessive drinking.

- At least 10 people a week die as a result of drinking and driving.
- 75 per cent of employers say that alcohol misuse is a problem in their organisation, and between 8 million and 14 million working days are lost each year in this country as a result of alcohol-related sickness.

Sensible drinking

- Men should drink no more than three to four units per day and women no more than two to three units a day. One unit of alcohol is the equivalent of a half pint of beer or lager, a small glass of wine, or a pub measure of spirits.
- A quick formula for working out the number of units in any given drink is to multiply the amount of liquid in the bottle by the drink's alcoholic strength and divide by 1,000. For example, a 75cl (750ml)

bottle of wine that has an alcohol content of 12 per cent (as marked on the label) contains nine units (thus 12 multiplied by 750 divided by 1,000 equals nine). So there are nine units of alcohol in one bottle of wine.

Why does alcohol affect people differently?

- Body size determines how alcohol affects us. Big people have more blood in their bodies, so that the level of alcohol is more diluted than the same amount of alcohol in a smaller person.
- Because women's bodies have more fat and less fluid than men's bodies, the concentration of alcohol in the blood will be higher in women, and women may also be more sensitive than normal to the effects of alcohol during their period.

Drinking and driving

- One unit of alcohol on an empty stomach results in a peak alcohol level of 15mg per 100ml of blood in a man and as much as 20mg per 100ml of blood in a woman.
- The drink-driving limit is 80mg alcohol/100ml blood. However, impairment to the drinker's driving ability occurs long before this limit is reached.
- It takes about an hour for the liver to process one unit of alcohol. A couple of pints at lunch time may mean that your driving is still impaired in the early evening, and if you have had a really heavy night you will probably still be over the limit the following morning.

Tips for cutting down

- Drink beer rather than spirits, drink more slowly and water down wine and spirits.

- Choose beer and wine with a lower alcohol content.
- Buy smaller glasses for the home, and use a drinks measure.

Why do we get hangovers?

- Alcohol is a diuretic that makes you pass more liquid in your urine than you are putting in. Dehydration gives you a headache and makes you thirsty. Alcohol is also a cardiovascular dilator, making smoking seem like a great idea once you are on your second drink, but if you smoke it adds to your hangover the next day.
- Alcohol stimulates the production of insulin, which lowers the blood sugar level, encouraging us to carry on drinking in order to take in more sugar.

Preventing hangovers

- Abstinence is the best way to pre-

vent waking up with a headache, an unquenchable thirst and the suspicion that a monkey has slept in your mouth. However, there are other tips that you can follow.

- Eat before you drink - alcohol is absorbed more quickly on an empty stomach. Also it is a good idea to drink some non-alcohol before you drink alcohol - milk can help to line your stomach.
- Think about your drink - some drinks are absorbed more quickly than others, so their effects are felt more quickly. Wines and sherries are absorbed more quickly than neat spirits and beers. The chemicals in sparkling wines, lagers and fizzy mixers speed up alcohol absorption, while the sugar in sweet drinks slows down absorption.
- Don't mix drinks, and try not to smoke more than normal while drinking.

- Before you go to bed try to drink a glass of water for every drink you have had, take two aspirin or ibuprofen and 50mg of vitamin B, and eat a couple of slices of bread and butter.

Hangover cures

- A sachet of Dioralyte (available from chemists) mixed with water will rehydrate you and put back lost minerals. It also helps to eat a big breakfast, with tomatoes, salt and protein. Take 1,000mg of vitamin C and a double dose of Zinc B6 and fish oil capsules, and also take two Alka Seltzer.
- Take gentle exercise and a hot bath to try to detoxify your system.

Alcohol Concern: 0171 928 7377 or www.alcoholconcern.org.uk
Drinktime: 0800 917 8282
Alcoholics Anonymous: 0345 697555

THIS WAS THE
WEEK THAT WAS

Today On this day in 1732 the first Covent Garden Opera House opened its doors; now it is defunct (a fate liable to overtake the current one). On this day in 1982, *Hero* was released. English-speaking audiences who suspected they had a problem with the accent were right: it was the first feature film in Gaelic.

Tomorrow 1660 saw a Shakespearean first: a female role was played by a woman instead of the usual young man, with a Mrs Norris taking the part of Desdemona.

Wednesday Sir Anthony van Dyck died in 1641. The Belgian-born portraitist came to London and was made "painter-in-ordinary", although really he was anything but.

Thursday The first night of *Ubu Roi*, the first drafts of which had been written by Alfred Jarry at 15, launched Theatre of the Absurd in 1956. The second night was a riot - literally. The curtain came down in mid-play.

Friday In 1987 a bowler hat and cane were auctioned at Christie's for £25,500, possibly because they had belonged to Charlie Chaplin.

Saturday In 1926 James Joyce began reading *Finnegans Wake* to his friends. As with the recent audio version, that did not necessarily make it more comprehensible. In 1955, Bill Haley and the Comets recorded the classic "See You Later Alligator".

Sunday In 1913 the Moma Lisa was discovered in a Florence bedroom. An Italian housepainter had been insulted as "a macaroni-eater" by some Frenchmen and had stolen the painting from the Louvre in revenge (as you do). The first concert in sign language was given in 1989 by a deaf choir performing in unison with a male voice choir in West Glamorgan.

JONATHAN SALES

Los Angeles is a disaster waiting to happen. Whether it's fire, tornado, plague or big cat, something's going to strike it down. In the wake of a new book on the city, Steve Jelbert sets out some movie-style apocalyptic scenarios

The fall of the city of Angels

BOYZ N the Wood (15) "A Burning Rage in a Burning Landscape" After his momma, whom he loves even more than his car, burns to death in her low-rent flat in the crowded barrio, due to the slumlord owner's negligence of city fire safety ordinances, young Jesus is let out of jail for her burial. But when brushfires break out in Malibu, he and all other gang members on day release for funerals, are hurriedly called up to the brigades fighting the fire... and saving the multi-million-dollar home of his momma's landlord. Stars: Bill Paxton, Dennis Hopper, Coolio (frequent profanity and use of Spanish).

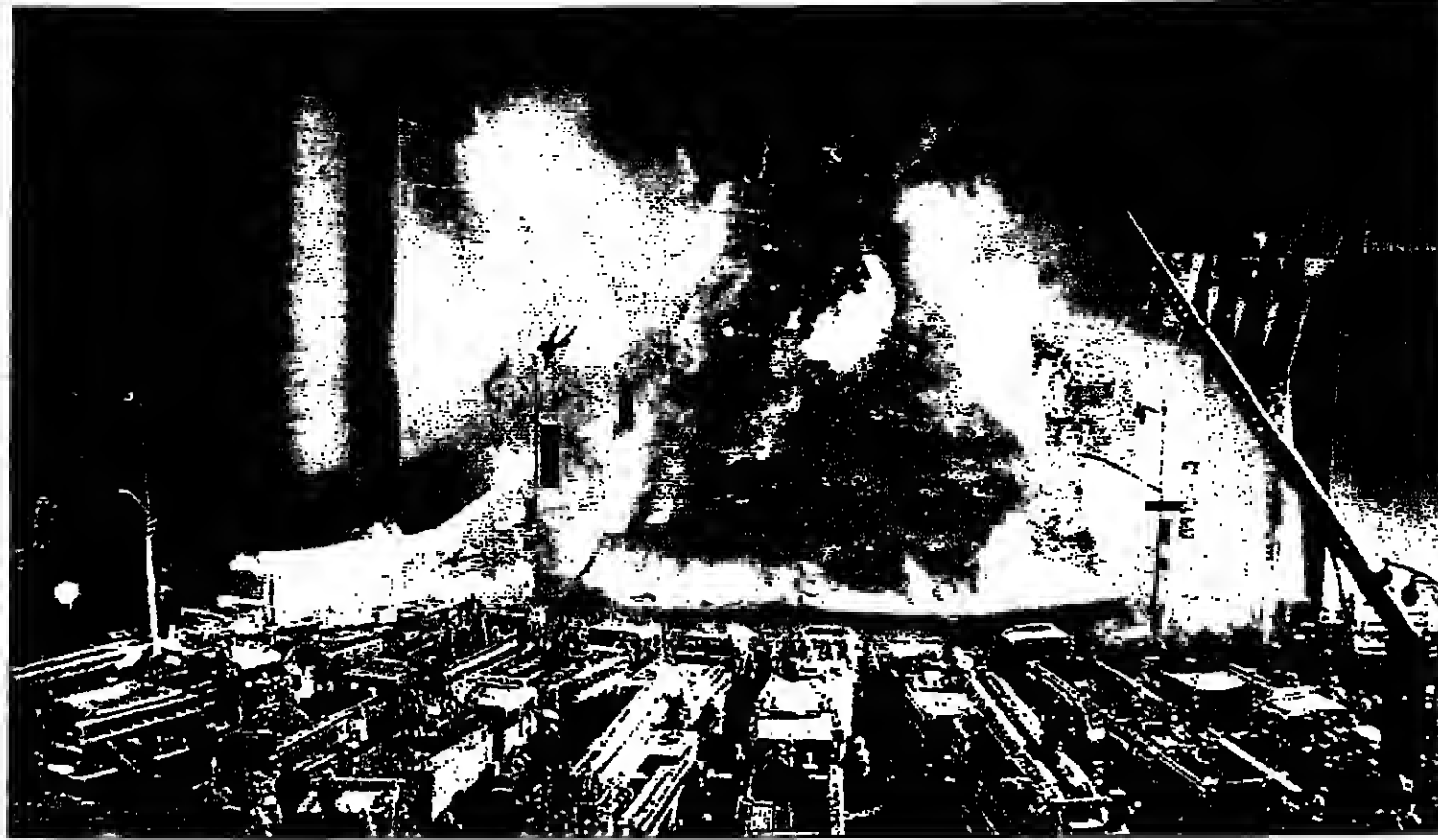
Hollywood executives in need of ideas for their next "high concept" blockbuster could do worse than read the latest book by Los Angeles' apocalyptic social historian Mike Davis. It's his first since 1990's *City of Quartz*, a gloomy analysis of the megacity's societal divides, vindicated by the 1992 riots (or uprising, depending on your viewpoint).

Recently issued in the United States, *Ecology of Fear* is a beautifully written, frequently contentious and always fascinating meditation on humanity's relationship with its environment in southern California, in reality and fiction.

The above scenario is inspired by a chapter called "The Case for Letting Malibu Burn", in which Davis points out that it's all very well for the rich to build wooden homes in notorious firetraps - large Malibu conflagrations have been used by researchers to model the behaviour of nuclear firestorms - but a zero fire tolerance policy and designation of such events as potential national disasters effectively means an endless drain on all taxpayers. Still, that's where money lives, and the political machines must kowtow to the wishes of some of their most generous sponsors.

In the meantime it would be nice to let the other 17 million people in the Greater LA region have access to the beach. Gang members, real or imagined, are welcome only as part of the firefighting teams that the rapper Coolio once served.

Los Angeles weather is prob-



A scene from the film 'Volcano': mythmakers have dwelled on the destruction of LA for years, revelling in its demise

lematic; regular bot Santa Ana winds fan fast-moving canyon fires. But according to Davis, the west of town, including LAX airport, is as tornado-prone as the Midwest.

Though they never reach the intensity of the famed twisters of Kansas and Oklahoma, in the crowded city they leave massive destruction. They are apparently related to the unpredictable El Niño weather system, which this decade has caused storms to wreak havoc on California, and crank callers to wreak havoc on the unfortunately named state resident Al Nino, who sounded distinctly intertempore when interviewed by *Today*.

Disaster can mean profit. *Earthquake* (1974), a big-budget extravaganza, was supposedly inspired by an MCA executive who suggested "What about a picture where the common disaster comes to them, instead of the other way around? Let's get that audience!" Ominously, not only did the costly North-

ridge quake of 1994 do \$26bn of damage, its destructive patterns also proved to be unpredictable.

Seismologists now suspect that the geology of Los Angeles, largely hunk in a sedimentary basin, may multiply wave amplitudes within its confines. Two hundred high-rise buildings collapsed in the similarly sited Mexico City in 1985, and there's no reason the same can't happen in L.A. Even if they stay upright, sprinkler systems are likely to fail, and as for emergency services, a single skyscraper fire in 1987 required half the city's ladder companies to deal with it. Incredibly, none of the area's past 10 major quakes has taken place during school hours.

ORNERY CRITTERS (PG) "When you enter the park, you enter the food chain." The small town of *Perdido* is dependent on hikers who pass through on their way to the nearby national park. When the local fauna start attacking

city-dwelling holiday-makers it's a race against time to hunt the rogue cougars causing panic in the Chamber of Commerce. Features amazing shots of attacks from the puma's perspective. Also has some plot as *James*. Stars: Bill Paxton, Charles Grodin (gets eaten), Julianne Moore (in white lab coat).

(Environmentally unsound garbage dumps, severed head rolls into pick-up truck bed.) That quote about the food chain is genuine, from a resident of Descanso, just outside San Diego. 100 miles south, where once-endangered mountain lions have taken to endangering hapless hikers. It's a new development - all but one of California's recorded cougar attacks have occurred since 1985. Even the executive director of the Mountain Lion Foundation says "something weird is happening". Davis ponders whether this means "the emergence of lions with a lusty

appetite for slow, soft animals in Spandex". Incidentally, after a woman died in a Northern California attack in 1989 the orphaned cubs reportedly received more donations than her orphaned children.

Coyotes are as common in the city as the urban fox is in Britain, and their changing behaviour has been observed over the years. From hunting rodents and rabbits, then raiding animals at the LA zoo, they've learnt to prey on household pets and topple dustbins for leftovers. With the wilderness of the San Gabriel Mountains only 20 miles from the city centre, it seems that the local wildlife has become habituated to humanity's presence.

Still, they won't get you at home. But the plague might. Yes, there really are plague-carrying rats and squirrels in southern California. Currently they're found on the edge of the urban sprawl, but both Los Angeles and rival San Francisco have been seen plague outbreaks this

century. (The virulent pneumonic form killed a man in neighbouring Kern County in 1995.) Investigators have even discovered a family dog carrying the *Yersinia Pestis bacillus* in its fleas. Then there are the rabid skunks that visit suburban gardens...

Something about this over-analysed, confusing city fascinates the world. Even Davis admits that Los Angeles is an aberration rather than the possible future model he previously suspected. Ultimately it's the most familiar cityscape on the planet, seen in thousands of movies and TV shows, yet it remains featureless beyond obvious associations such as the beaches and plush hills. Canny myth-makers have dwelt on the destruction of the place over the years, even inventing scenarios such as the recent volcano and happily revelling in its demise.

Nathaniel West was the first to name a character "Homer Simpson" in his LA apocalyptic classic *Day of the Locust*, but it's the Homer in us all that loves to see LA suffer. A century ago a common theme was the destruction of London, mankind's most extreme construction. Now its place has been taken by Los Angeles. Coming soon - the killer bees, feared in Latin America, already sighted outside the city, and spurred to attack by the noise of a lawnmower, or even certain colours...

THE STUNG (PG) - It's time to jump in the pool. The LA Bee Squad work with limited resources to cope with a sudden influx of Africanised honey bees, bad-tempered, aggressive, given to reproducing themselves and to killing people. An elderly country beekeeper is the first victim. Panic sweeps the city. Victims include partying teenagers, burglars who unwittingly disturb nests, theme park visitors. Participants in a poolside orgy with easy access to water survive. The threat is averted when an enormous molasses tank catches fire. Chief bee catcher heads home to family, unaware of the hive in his roof. Stars: Bill Paxton, Rene Russo with clipboard, James Cromwell as the beekeeper (painful deaths).

'Ecology of Fear' is published by Henry Holt

A case of too much Freud

STANISLAWA PRZYBYSEWSKA is not a name to conjure with, still less to spell with any confidence, in this country. But her massive, rambling 600-page dramatisation of the French revolution was the source both of the Andrzej Wajda movie *Danton*, and *The Danton Affair* by Pam Gems, produced by the RSC in 1985. While working on that piece, Gems became "fascinated by Przybyszewska's fascination. And by her." She is certainly an arresting phenomenon. A young Polish woman who holed herself up alone in an unheated school hut where, sustained only by her morphine addiction and hand-outs from a kindly aunt, she channelled her neurotic idealism into an obsessive study of Robespierre and Danton. At the tragically early age of 33, she died of hypothermia.

By far the best reason for seeing Janet Suzman's Sphinx production is the superlative central performance by Kathryn Pogson. She elevates some

THEATRE
THE SNOW PALACE
TRICLEY THEATRE
LONDON

pretty stodgy material. All bony fervour and haunted, staring eyes, she sits at her desk scribbling frantically, and even if the characters she is writing about did not materialise around her, you would be convinced that here is a woman who lives more in a heightened dream of the past than in the comfortless present.

Here is a movingly shaded characterisation. Brusquely dismissing charity from a well-heeled neighbour, Pogson lets you see how the high-minded Przybyszewska wavers, mesmerised by the warmth and scent of the proffered little luxuries. And there's an aching emotional neediness underlying her half-reproving, half-flirtatious relations with her demonic father, an avant-garde writer and alleged Satanist

whose capacity for living "to the hilt" she emulates.

The play, though, is unsatisfactory on two counts. The immemorial battle between the severe revolutionary purity and belief in perfectibility of a Robespierre and the generous-spirited indulgence of a Danton has been much more potently staged by writers - from Büchner in *Danton's Death* to Trevor Griffiths in *Who Shall Be Happy?* -

And it doesn't help here that while Nigel Cooke brings just the right thin-tipped martinet quality to the "Sea-green incorruptible", Mark Lewis Jones reduces Danton to a hunched, drunken boor. Secondly, if the play's intent is to celebrate Przybyszewska, it goes about it in a peculiar fashion. For its implication is that this feminist attitude was almost wholly conditioned by Przybyszewska's own problems with her father - whose identity, in an example of the often clunky dialogue, she

eventually discovers: "You don't mean Przybyszewska the dramatist, the novelist, friend of Edward Munch, Strindberg - all those avant-garde artists, you mean?" Accordingly, Robespierre, whom Przybyszewska was unusual in revering, represents the security her unstable background failed to give her, while her progressive antagonism to the rascally Danton mirrors her rejection of her wild, lawless father, who here makes a drunken attempt to rape and murder her.

It's not that such links didn't exist, but that *The Snow Palace* is in danger of suggesting that, for a woman in Przybyszewska's position, objectivity and disinterestedness cannot and should not be expected. It seems hard that, after leading such an ardently idealistic life, she should be remembered, not as an independent creative intellect, but as a Freudian case study.

PAUL TAYLOR

With friends like this...

READING
PAUL THEROUX
LYTTLETON THEATRE
RNT, LONDON

According to Theroux, the answer was simple: the book is brilliant, in concept and execution, and so there was no question of not writing it. There hasn't been a more searching exploration of the nature of friendship since Boswell scrutinised Johnson.

Theroux's reputation has taken a knock with this book, though. Auberon Waugh has called it disgusting, and even warned audiences to keep away from the event. Thousands came. But doubts still linger. Could Theroux possibly have remembered all those conversations from the Sixties, or was there perhaps an ele-

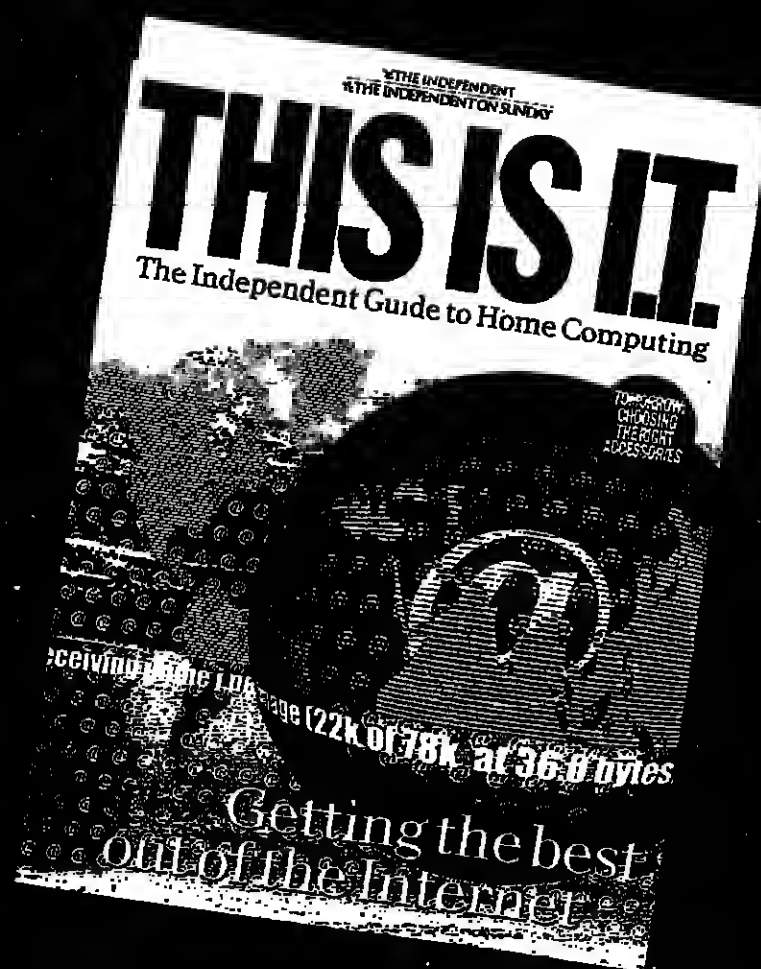
ment of précis here, and even perhaps of fabrication? What about, for example, that little girl of nine glimpsed in the book, the one who is said to have grown up to become Naipaul's wife 30 years later? Was that true or not? Theroux, smiling through clenched teeth, said that, well, sometimes, as the Russians know, a writer has to be an enchanter, and if it's not true, it has to be true. Which, perhaps, meant something to somebody bedded down somewhere in the permafrost.

But wasn't the project a touch morally dubious? Wasn't he, in effect, hoping for a little reflected glory from a talent greater than his? Theroux hit back hard, though genially. "Look," he said, "I'm 57 years old now." What a body, what a survivor, we all thought. "I've published 33 books. I'm sitting in Massachusetts one day,

thinking: I can swim - but what else? What have I got to write? Then I'm given an idea. It's a gift, a Valentine, this story. I never expected I'd be able to do it. You can only write it when the friendship's over, not when it's in progress. And so I wrote it. I did it. His new wife didn't want me to write it. She said there was a biography on the way anyway. But I wanted to do it because no one has written this book about friendship. No one can do it, because I've done it! It's my book!"

I felt that in the face of such a bout of near-hysterical self-justification, the St John's Ambulance people might be called for, but, all of a sudden, he steadied himself. He stopped spitting bullets, and got back to the business in hand. "And, I'm very happy to sign copies outside in the foyer."

MICHAEL GLOVER

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Everything you need to know about Home Computing
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A world with a different set of goals

The World Cup was not all action on the pitch. Football fever also raged quietly, in downtrodden back streets – and was caught on film. By Mike Higgins

Traditionally, television dissolves into a nostalgic reverie at the year's end. Last week, however, the big broadcasters competed for our memories with particular aggression. Kicking off the retrospective season in an unseemly frenzy, the BBC and ITV transmitted within 24 hours of each other *When England Played Argentina* and *Where Were You* – their Identikit reminiscences of the night "our boys" went down to the old World Cup enemy. Both programmes were opportunistic hodgepodes; in each, admittedly thrilling footage from England's second-round World Cup match was intercut with hastily-stitched-together recollections from players, the usual reserves' bench of celebrities and, silliest of all, a selection of "real fans".

There's little doubt that television is the first medium to which we turn in order to feel part of an occasion as momentous as the World Cup. Nothing tastes worse, though, than regurgitated goblets of a momentary national unity served up lukewarm by broadcasters months later. There is an alternative, however. Tomorrow night, *Come On England!*, a *Modern Times* documentary, will show that there's an entirely Des Lynam-free way to contemplate the World Cup and what it meant for one particular audience.

Richard Alwyn's documentary is simplicity itself. Over 50 minutes, we see 12-year-old Thomas watching the progress of his beloved England in his Everton home. He plays football with his friends in the surrounding streets and discusses his dreams and ambitions on aimless walks with his father. There's no narration, no probing interviews and hardly any football. In fact, by the action-packed standards of the ubiquitous docusoap, virtually nothing happens. Instead, the eye is drawn, restlessly at first, and then inexorably, from the familiar images of Owen and Shearer flickering on the

'Is the only way to make a film about post-industrial Britain to rub every fact in your audience's face?'

"The common memory and enjoyment of the football allows people to recognise themselves in a situation which, to a large number of viewers of documentary, is fundamentally alien." This isn't strictly true. Places like Everton are all too familiar to audiences battered into submission by a certain type of television. Hard-hitting news reports and documentaries are always eager to cite people such as Thomas and his single-parent family (his father is estranged from his mother) as handy proof of certain social problems.

No one was more aware of this than Thomas's mother. Though a "robust, strong woman" and "a real matriarchal figure in the community", according to Alwyn, she sadly remains a peripheral figure in the film. "Because it's a very hard area," Alwyn believes, "it takes a long

time for people to accept that you're not there on the usual agenda of drugs, crime, unemployment – the usual reasons why the media, with good intentions, come into areas like that. They [the inhabitants] more or less become a shorthand for the worst of post-industrial Britain."

This isn't to say that *Come On England!* remains entirely mute on the subject of Everton's endemic poverty – otherwise, says Alwyn, he'd have made the film in Weybridge. He hopes that, while Thomas rides his bike in the local park or sits watching the England vs Tunisia game with his father, certain standards of living the audience might take for granted will be conspicuously absent: "For those who look carefully, there are possible conclusions based on things which aren't overtly stated – there aren't many cars on the streets, for instance. Is the only way to make a film about post-industrial Britain to rub every fact in your audience's face?"

In its own gentle way, Alwyn's "hands off" approach works – it humanises his subjects even as it suggests their wants. Central to this human appeal is Thomas himself, a likeable, apparently happy child. Conversations between him and his father drift between England's next match, Dad's lack of money and the chances of the 12-year-old making it as a footballer. There's not a hint, though, that the film ever scoffs at the chasm between the dreams the World Cup is nourishing and the altogether more prosaic destiny that probably awaits him. The film is often melancholic.

But, as the delightful Stephane Grappelli sound-track acknowledges, it's also keen to convey the innocence of Thomas and his mates. The occasion of the World Cup itself is an obviously recognisable peg for the audience, but the production team chose its subjects carefully and was rewarded for its forethought. Alwyn had had an idea that a young Liverpudlian, Michael Owen, might figure prominently in the competition.



The BBC's 'Come on England!', an entirely Des Lynam-free way to contemplate the World Cup

tion. Better still, another England star, Steve McManaman, is an old boy of Thomas's school. The easy identification of Thomas, his friends and indeed every football fan with their heroes owes a lot to a genre Alwyn dislikes.

"Football has more in common with documentary soap than this film has," he believes. "Everyone felt they knew what [the World Cup] meant through Des Lynam – well chosen bits of opera and the drama on, off and around the pitch."

Not that Alwyn's football-phobic, by any means. Like tens of millions of others in this country, he thoroughly enjoyed the World Cup and its coverage – he just thought that the competition could be used to explore more universal themes. Much

the same is true of Alwyn's three previous films. However, what most obviously distinguishes *A Job For Life*, *A Pleasant Land* and *The Shrine* from *Come On England!* are their darker premisses: respectively, the closure of the Grimehorpe colliery, the BSE crisis and the death of Diana, Princess of Wales.

Alwyn's ruminative, hypnotic style is apparent in all his work. Thanks to news coverage at the time, everyone was aware of the issues of *A Job For Life* and *A Pleasant Land*. Alwyn's aim, however, was to observe "an internal psychological crisis in community" felt by the Grimehorpe miners and a small Dartmoor farming family. Fortunately, Alwyn was on hand at Kensington Palace in the aftermath of the death of Diana

to bear witness to a psychological crisis on a nationwide scale. The result, *The Shrine*, was breathtaking. Ignoring the news media's ludicrous attempts instantly to gauge Diana's legacy, Alwyn chose to record the amazing thoughts, gestures and actions of the grief-stricken crowds that refused to leave Kensington Gardens for most of September.

Stephen Lambert, the editor who commissioned *Come On England!* counsels patience: "You have to work to watch something like *Come On England!* – but if you invest time in it, it will be rewarding." It's true that Alwyn's leisurely film is rather different from the quick gratification that characterised last week's prime-time World Cup recollections. It's also true that tomorrow night's

documentary hasn't the impact of *The Shrine*. Nevertheless, it's an increasingly rare form of film-making and one whose pleasures are worth the viewing effort. Alwyn knows that the current broadcasting climate demands bums on seats, but he's also sure that there's an audience out there for *Come On England!* He even takes heart from his detractors: "One TV critic said she'd never watched such a boring documentary in her life and if she wanted to watch Eastern European cinema she could emigrate. Which I thought was a huge back-handed compliment – I was delighted!"

Modern Times: Come On England! will be shown on Tuesday, BBC2, 9.30pm

Grandest old masters of the Cuban rhythm method

POP

RUBEN GONZALEZ/
THE AFRO-CUBAN ALL
STARS
ROYAL FESTIVAL HALL
LONDON

AT ONE point at the Royal Festival Hall on Friday, it looked and sounded as though half of Havana was on stage. Aside from a Communist revolution, more Latin-orientated excitement is rather hard to imagine.

The veteran pianist Ruben Gonzalez kicked things off with a set of fragile and heart-stoppingly beautiful small-group Cuban dance music. Most sales we get to hear comes via New York or Miami, and is packed with steroidal jazz and soul muscle. By contrast, Gonzalez's music is dignified and gentle, almost classical in its precision. A wiry miniature pianist only just short of 80, he has long been considered one of the island's national treasures, ever since making his name in the legendary Arsenio Rodriguez's early Forties line-up. But as a working musician, Gonzalez appeared to have been lost in the annals of Cuban musical history until the World Circuit record label introduced him to Ry Cooder and set them both on the road towards a Grammy award.

At the South Bank, he played with the profound wit and humanity which distinguish the musician touched by genius. His set was the highlight of the evening.

It should not be surprising that old men can make such vital and sexy music; but somehow it always is. Gonzalez's rhythm section looked as if they belonged in a scene from an old folks' home directed by Dennis Potter. They suddenly unleashed a warm tide of rhythm that you could bathe in like milk, while their faces remained completely uninvolved.



Dignified and gentle: veteran pianist Ruben Gonzalez

Geraint Lewis

The sprightly 72-year-old *sonero* Ibrahim Ferrer – he made his name in the Fifties with Pacho Alonso's group – was merely the icing on the cake, tender but compelling whenever he opened his mouth.

But this was just the start of a three-hour celebration of the sound of Cuba. The 16-piece Afro-Cuban All Stars, complete with five *soneros* and a brass section that could split the atom, were all flash and flamboyance after Gonzalez's aristocratic opening. This was music to dance to. People tried to move in

their seats but got their buttocks trapped between the arm rests, so they headed to the front of the hall to put on a display of British comedy dancing.

The South Bank security looked alarmed, but it didn't rattle the All Stars. As the music grew steamier, an octogenarian *sonero* held his microphone to his crotch like an impressive silver-headed phallus and thrust it rhythmically toward the faces of the dancers. As if a band featuring the likes of Pio Leyva and "Cachaito" Lopez weren't enough,

a party of special guests, including the top trombonist Juan Pablo Torres, took to the seething stage at intervals throughout the night.

Before World Circuit encouraged him to perform again, Ruben Gonzalez was sitting at home listening to the woodworm eat his piano. He was the first man to take to the Royal Festival Hall stage and the last one to leave it and when he did he was mobbed by fans younger than his own grandchildren. When he returns, expect more magic.

LINTON CHILSWICK

Too massive for an attack

POP

MASSIVE ATTACK
LONDON ARENA
DOCKLANDS

PERHAPS NO other band have become so popular and influential while remaining so unknown. Massive Attack are now such a big act that enough people to fill the cavernous London Arena – usually the exclusive preserve of big-haired pop starlets and glassy-eyed evangelists – are even prepared to venture out into the Huxley-esque theme park of London's docklands to see them play.

Massive Attack's music – a gloomy, dub-laden hybrid of hip hop and torch ballad, a sort of dance music you can't dance to – has been one of the defining motifs of the Nineties, resonating to all points between Portishead and Radiohead. Yet it's a safe bet that almost nobody here would recognise a member of the Bristol-based trio if they dumped them outside.

When Daddy G, 3D and Mushroom wander on to the stage with their four-piece band, they look more like members of the road crew making last minute adjustments to the back line.

As soon as they start, kicking gently into "Superpredators", it occurs to me that the cheerless, modernist cityscape of Docklands might even be the best place for Massive Attack.

Their music is the definitive sound-track for urban claustrophobia, at once as malevolent as security cameras and as soothing as advertising. There isn't a sound in Massive Attack's palette that is in the slightest bit organic or acoustic, and their best work still results from the tension between this artificial menace and the straightforward, heartfelt lyricism exemplified by early hits, such as "Safe From Harm" and "Unfinished Symphony".

During tonight's performance, as on Massive Attack's current album, *Mezzanine*, several tracks are sung by the former Cocteau

Twins vocalist, Elisabeth Fraser. Fraser is an astute choice of collaborator: not only did the Cocteau negotiate a similar career path of immense influence coupled with anonymity, but if Massive Attack's driving aim is to locate a human heartbeat beneath the *Sturm und Drang* of modern living, then there's no more appropriate voice.

Fraser's indecipherably ecstatic warble remains a wholly pure entity, irresistibly evocative of flowery-haired waifs skipping merrily around a maypole. "Teardrop" is the night's high point by a clear margin. Massive Attack and Fraser between them accomplishing pretty much everything that has ever been claimed by her admirers on behalf of Kate Bush.

However, while the majesty and importance of Massive Attack's records is beyond any reasonable doubt, they're still not an entirely satisfying experience as a live act. It may be that there's not much they can do about this – when you make music informed largely by loneliness and paranoia, it's always going to be uphill work to make it really happen in a vast concrete barn, full of people trying to have a great Friday night out.

It's difficult, while watching Massive Attack performing "Spying Glass", "Rising Son" and "Karmacoma", not to wish that you were hearing these songs at home, alone, with a decent bottle of red to hand.

ANDREW MUELLER

A version of this review appeared in the later editions of *Saturday's paper*

VIDEOWATCH MIKE HIGGINS



The Complete Fawlty Towers, £34.99

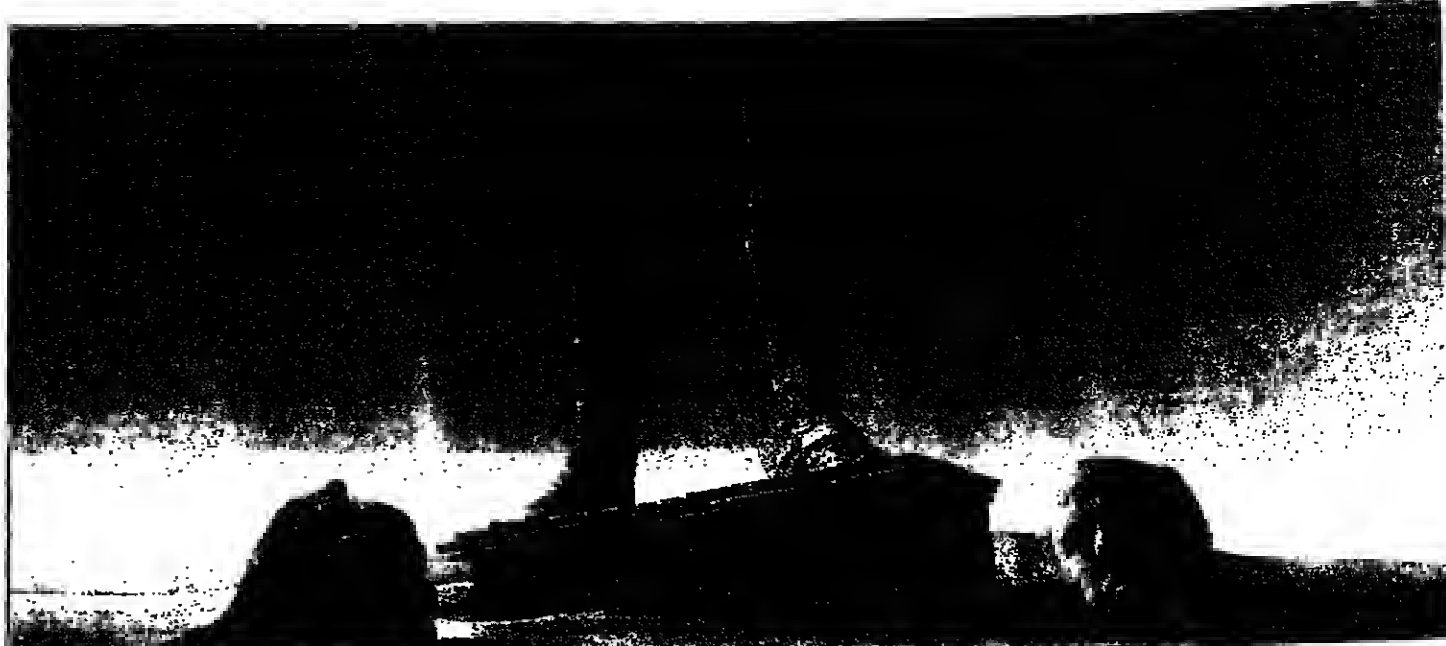
JOHN CLEESE and his then-wife, Connie Booth, only wrote 12 episodes of this superb sitcom. It's one of those facts which is often cited whenever another re-run appears on television. Another one is that Basil, and the creation as a whole, was inspired by a trip Cleese and a few of the *Monty Python* team made to a Turquay hotel in 1971. The hotel was reportedly The Gleneagles, but any resemblance between the incredibly bad-tempered manager he encountered and the proprietor of Fawlty Towers is, of course, purely coincidental.

It hardly seems worth re-iterating that this is one of the great sitcoms, so here are a few other production bits. Cleese and Booth only wrote the second series after the immense success of the first six episodes. They both thought that there was nothing left in the idea and, besides, their marriage was on the skids. *Fawlty Towers* also proved to be that rare beast – an English sitcom which was a success in its original form in the US.

NETWORK

Animated
for the
big screen

A British computer imaging company has developed a production system to take on Hollywood, *Antz* and all. By Meg Carter



'Look upon my works, ye mighty, and despair' - PGP is planning a series of dramatised classic poems

It may not sound like the obvious setting for a revolution, but in leafy Kingston, a young computer animation company is preparing to take on Hollywood.

After two years of unpublished research and development, Pepper's Ghost Productions (PGP) is putting in place the final pieces of a computer generated image (CGI) production company which, it hopes, will be the most advanced - and, as important, cost-effective - in Europe.

The company is named after Professor John Henry Pepper who, in 1862, astonished the world with one of the first special effects - using light and an angled sheet of partially mirrored glass for a trick later known as "Pepper's Ghost". PGP has a clear and single-minded aim. "We want to move CGI out of its box and to make it appealing to a far broader audience by combining it with drama and art," the managing director, Paul Michael, explains.

The company now has twin processor Pentium 2 NT work-

stations running 3DS Max 2.5 windows-based graphics packages, motion capture and sound studio facilities, and a Silicon Graphics workstation for video-compositing. Its staff of 30 includes directors, producers, writers, artists and animators.

Yet PGP has resolutely refused to take on lucrative TV commercials of title sequence work for fear of being diverted from its true goal. Spurred on by the growing popularity of CGI in movies - such as *Tiny Tim*, *DreamWorks* current blockbuster *Antz*, and Disney's

A Bug's Life - and the current vogue on TV for traditional animation aimed at adults, PGP is now developing a number of broadcast projects using CGI.

One is *Tiny Planets*, a series to teach pre-school children about the world; another is *The A to Z of Family Life* - an adult sitcom about a retired suburban couple. The company is also planning a series of dramatised classic poems.

"To date, few computer-generated TV series have been seen in the UK," says PGP's executive creative director,

Richard Morris. "And what has made it to air - the UK-produced *Reboot*, and *Insector* - has been aimed at kids. We want to make it more acceptable to a wider TV audience, with sitcoms and dramas."

Satisfying broadcasters' expectations is not easy. "While they are crying out for new and original programming and are keen to capitalise on the growing popularity of CGI, they don't like much of what they see," adds Alan Marques, PGP's head of digital production.

Although the cost of digital production technology continues to fall, working within a broadcast budget is as much about effective management of the production as about the right software - which is where PGP is confident it can win.

"From the beginning, we wanted to tell stories," explains Sir Peter Michael, Paul's father and the company's chairman and chief executive. "It's a vision I've had for some time, although for many years there wasn't the technology to do it on a sensible budget."

Sir Peter secured an initial investment of £5m from backers, including himself, Lord Lloyd-Webber, and Brian Broly, former chief executive of the Really Useful Company. Getting the business up and

running, however, was always going to be a phased affair. "The ability to make it a true industry here depends not only on producing quality production at the right cost and on time, but also on companies like ourselves being able to make a business out of it," he explains.

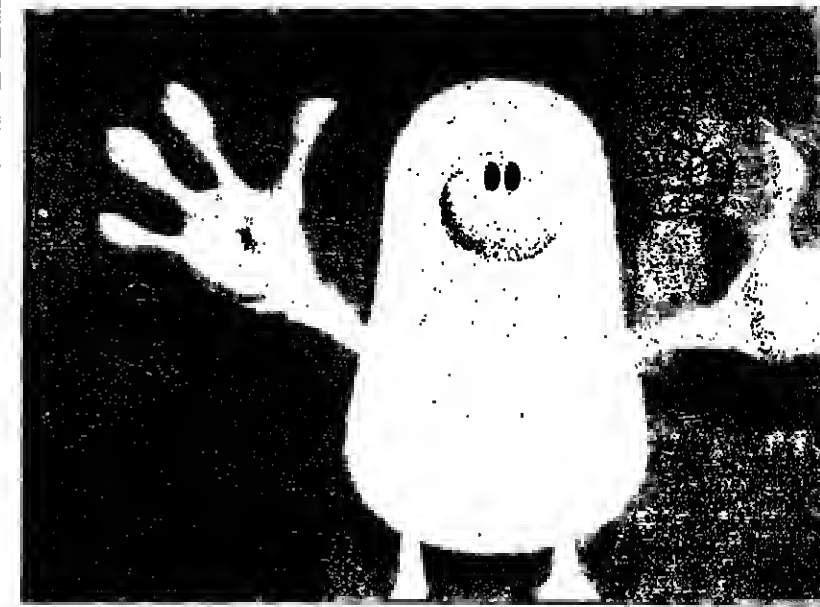
This, however, is easier said than done - as a number of other computer graphics companies have learnt to their cost. Which is why a good part of Pepper's Ghost's two-year R&D process was spent developing a sophisticated digital production management system, PG Studio. This allows quick and easy access to any other element of the production at whatever stage and can also analyse which parts of the production could be made more efficient.

PGP also latest motion picture, which red cost of anim generated ch capture is us movements c farmers, who a ital sensors. TI is then applie generated cha nique that is a effective in pro facial move

Sir Peter is Pepper's Ghost see results so convinced that pean CGI will l its "cottage ind

"We don't thi on Hollywood a do want to do t won't laugh at."

A closed network is a contradiction in terms



The CGI programme 'Tiny Planets' will teach young children about the world

BYTES

ANDY OLDFIELD

BRITAIN, GERMANY, Japan and 33 other nations last week followed the lead of the US by agreeing to limit the strength of encryption software that companies in those countries are allowed to export. The US Undersecretary of Commerce, David Aaron, said that encryption technology used to protect intellectual property would be exempt from the controls.

The countries are all signatories to the Wassenaar Arrangement limiting arms exports. The US government controls the export of encryption software using arms control legislation at the behest of security organisations who claim that unfettered use of strong encryption would help criminals.

Each country will draft its own legislation to implement the agreement.

MICROSOFT HAS consistently told the press that the anti-trust case brought against it by the Department of Justice is ill-conceived and ought to be dropped.

Last week it even took out full-page advertisements in American newspapers to say that the trial was irrelevant and that the marketplace takes care of consumers better and more quickly than the government ever can.

That theme was taken up and expanded on by the chief executive, Bill Gates, at a conference in New York. "This kind of lawsuit is something no one should have to go

through," he said. "We are in a business that is very, very competitive, so there's a lot of ironies from having the distractions of a government lawsuit - particularly one that seeks to restrict our ability to innovate our products."

In court in Washington, the vice-president of Sun Microsystems and inventor of its Java language, James Gosling, took the stand. Sun complained that Microsoft had tried to destroy Java as a technology that could challenge the Windows operating system monopoly.

Microsoft denied the claims, saying that its implementation of Java was better and faster than Sun's. It pointed out that even Sun's allies had abandoned "pure Java", and that Sun had allowed it to ship its products while seeking to stop Microsoft from doing so.

EUROPEAN UNION ministers have failed to resolve a dispute over a draft EU directive on how to handle the technology used to create secure electronic signatures for authenticating Internet transactions.

France, Germany and Italy, with support from Austria and Portugal, argued for regulations to build consumer confidence. Britain, Finland, Sweden and the Netherlands said this should be left to the market.

Martin Bangemann, the European Commissioner responsible for information technology,

said the call for re was misplaced be could cause trade and did not recog quickly technology changing.

"Member states underestimating ti developments in ti information societ technology," he sai believe they can m these new develop with their old attit

UNIX COMPREHEN out-performed Win NT in tests carried a market research company, D H Brov finished last behind variants of the Unix operating system.

IBM's AIX Unix i the rankings, follow Compaq's Digital U Sun Microsystems' Silicon Graphics' Iri Hewlett-Packard's I

"The Enterprise l of Windows NT Serv trails Unix in every except for PC client support," D H Brov

Windows NT' cam second in support fo clients, behind Com Digital Unix. The lat also took top marks i support for services a large corporation

D H Brown pointe that the study does n reflect market share customer satisfaction "The best technology not always win in the marketplace... in a brutally competitive industry that relies e more on commodity technology, it is still possible to differentia with leading-edge operating system features."

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Political activism goes online

Sit-ins and marches are old hat. Civil disobedience is becoming electronic, but governments are wising up. By Matthew Burgess

Cyberspace has become the latest forum for direct political activism. Over the last few months, Net-based organisations have shown that "electronic civil disobedience" can achieve newsworthy results. The principal weapon in their electronic arsenal is "mobile code" - any Java or Active X-style applet that "pushes" files on to your computer. Once inside, the code can access your computer's innards in the same way as any other application. These are the Stealth Bombers of e-conflict: small, efficient and extremely difficult to detect.

A few weeks ago, Electronic Disturbance Theatre (EDT), a Mexican political group allied to the pro-Zapatista movement, launched a Java-based attack on several websites: the Frankfurt Stock Exchange, the Pentagon, and the site of the President of Mexico. The applet, activated when casual surfers visited the EDT page, subjected the targets to "denial-of-service" attacks, which would - if successful - have prevented access to any of their password-protected files. EDT announced the planned date of its supposed raid, leading observers to believe that it was more of a publicity stunt than a serious attempt to penetrate the Pentagon. However, the method of attack holds serious implications for the "innocent" Web surfer. The target regards the hostile applet as having originated from the visitor, rather than the EDT site. Anyone logging on to such a site therefore could, theoretically, be held responsible for his or her inadvertent actions.

The EDT campaign marks the first time a Java applet has been used in a live "cyber-attack" by techno-literate political rebels - the first instance of electronic civil disobedience. The group says more attacks are planned.

Less than a week later, the on-line news service news.com reported a similar offensive against the website of Sweden's main opposition party. With an election imminent, the hackers sabotaged a portrait of the Moderate Party's leader, Carl Bildt, a former Swedish prime minister.

As well as direct action, the Internet is a useful tool for political activists. In Indonesia, student protests have been co-ordinated

an Active X control that skimmed personal banking information from customer websites. The group publicly demonstrated how millions of pounds could be transferred from bank accounts to their account using mobile code.

Fortunately, there are several methods of defence against such intrusions. The easiest way to combat mobile code interference is to configure the browser to block all incoming applets, a solution currently being adopted by many US organisations in the wake of the EDT's activities. However, this poses a significant challenge to the developers of e-commerce applications, which rely on mobile code functions. Web

Being object-orientated and easy to use, mobile code does not require the same technical knowledge as virus programming, and the scope for damage is far higher. A recent report by the US software analyst house Hurwitz (<http://www.hurwitz.com>) concluded: "The market for the prevention of malicious applets is in its infancy... it will begin to mature as more destructive applets are found and the nature of the problem becomes more widely recognised."

Despite rising hysteria over its misuse, however, the majority of mobile code applications are positive. The potential exists for mobile code "weapons" to become an important tool for tracking illegal Net activity, as illustrated by a recent money-making scam. Visitors to a pornographic site inadvertently triggered a piece of Active X code that used their desktops to dial long-distance calls to Moldova, racking up huge phone bills. Telephone companies were forced to nullify more than \$2m in phone charges, and more than 38,000 "enthusiasts" were affected. If a similar principle were applied to child porn sites, for example, such users could be closely monitored.

Of course, this could have far-reaching implications regarding Internet privacy. Programmers at Within Reach Software took an existing attack program called Back Office and designed a Java applet that could deliver it to desktops. Once inside the desktop, Back Office can access and use anything the typical user can.

With hard drive contents open to such scrutiny, it looks as though time is running out for even the most casual electronic offender.

EDT's action was the first time that a Java applet had been used in a 'cyber attack' by techno-literate political rebels

across campuses by e-mail and Web-based news groups.

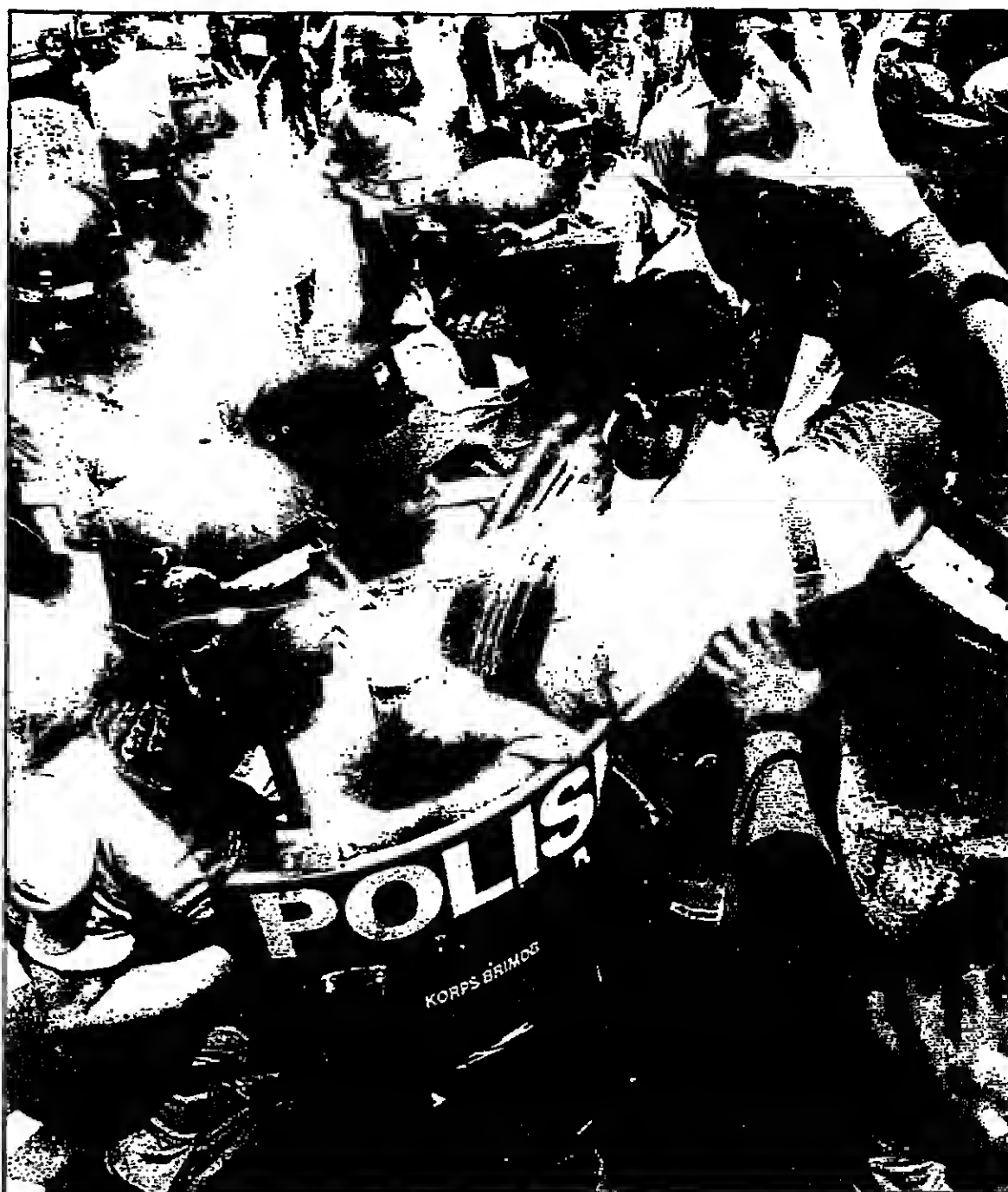
Mobile code attacks are not exclusively directed at commercial or political organisations. During the summer of 1998, hackers attacked the free Internet e-mail service Hotmail, embedding JavaScript code in E-mail messages. When the victim opened the message, the JavaScript code created an apparently legitimate dialogue box that asked the user to log in again to the Hotmail account. Users who entered their names and passwords ended up sending that confidential information to the intruder.

The Chaos Club, a German hacker group, also programmed

sites can also suffer under such restrictions - almost 80 per cent contain some form of mobile code.

Specialised security programs, such as SurfinGate from the US security specialist Finjan (<http://www.finjan.com>), can automatically block hostile applets by detecting suspect activities. When tested with the same ZapNet Tactical code that was launched by the EDT, SurfinGate's security content inspection processes were triggered by the applet's attempts to access network connections.

Finjan is speculating that mobile code "misuse" could be to the late Nineties what the macro virus was to the mid-Eighties.



Anti-government protesters in Indonesia have co-ordinated demonstrations by e-mail and the Internet

AP

MY TECHNOLOGY: SIMON MUNNERY AND HIS TECHNICAL COMEDY PROPS

My controller fits like a glove

IT HAS been a long evolution. About four years ago my act involved a slide projector, and a microphone with buttons that worked the projector, and a box of three Walkmans that produced sounds - drumming, clapping and music. It suited the act and made a bit of a show. Why not?

... comic character was, a megalomaniac, so the clapping and drumming was as if heralding in the big personality. And when I worked as Alan Parker - Urban Warrior, I would do skits with placards, with words and drawings. I like visual jokes. In comedy you are restricted visually, compared to theatre for instance. But these tricks of the trade were unsatisfactory, touting around a lot of props becomes a chore and even when I used a slide projector, it was particularly difficult. I was with the computer you get thousands of images; they can be stored on the computer and manipulated with ease.

The images initially came out of a Psion3A, which is a tiny, hand-held computer. I got a circuit chip from Tandy that interprets and converts the dial tones emitted by the Psion. I have mastered electronics from reading books.

The chip converts the dial tones into signals that operate relays. The Psion could operate the slide projector and Walkmans. It took lots of wires and I used it only once because it was completely unreliable - every time the Psion sent the beep somewhere in the chain it wouldn't work.

Now I basically control the computer with the Glove of Power. The glove was originally a radio-controlled car component from Woolworths. I took the car bits off and attached the electronics inside to a computer keyboard, so I could control it from my glove.

Using technology in a live comic skit doesn't come without mishaps. Two years ago, in Edinburgh, Sony lent me a projector, but when we connected it to the computer it crashed after about half an hour. We didn't know exactly when this would happen. More worryingly, we didn't know why, and you couldn't cover it up! The screen would flash with an error sign, there'd be a pause, then I'd try to cover with comedy.

I also use a self-filming camera. I basically stuck a camera to the back of a mirror and put together the video cable from the camera, the



Simon Munnery uses the Glove of Power to control his computer sounds and images

power supply and a switch so I can switch between the computer and the camera. "I am TV" is not my bid for the Eddie Izzard market. As far as I am concerned, no one has made television properly, and I will learn by making it live in front of an audience. I am going to film myself and cut

between the film of myself projected on to a big screen, and the computer-generated images and graphics.

The audience can see me if they want, but it's a much bigger and brighter image of me on the screen. The crucial difference is that most comedians have got used to holding

a microphone and using it, not a camera. They are like sheep. But with the camera, they can play stadiums; a microphone amplifies your voice; a camera amplifies a face.

The response is laughter on good nights, weeping on bad. But I have talked myself into this, and talked everyone else

I know into it, as well. I am sure it will work.

Simon Munnery's *League Against Tedium* is at the ICA, The Mall, London SW1 on 9 & 16 December (0171-930 3647)

INTERVIEW BY JENNIFER RODGER

Cyber smile is here to stay

WEB DESIGN



JASON CRANFORD TEAGUE

ALMOST SINCE day one of the Web, the big promise has always been "in a few months we'll have multimedia just like CD-ROMs." We still don't have anything approaching the multimedia that can be delivered through a CD-ROM, but there are a few contenders: RealAudio and QuickTime can deliver video and audio, though there has yet to be a suitable or standard way to control these formats in a web environment.

For example, let's say you had video, text and music that you wanted to run on a Web page. There would be no way to have the music start, then five seconds later have the text appear, then, after the text has appeared, start the video. The html simply cannot handle these complex tasks.

I recently downloaded the Star Wars trailer (<http://www.starwars.com>). A little more than 2 minutes of medium-quality QuickTime video took up 24meg of disk space and required a good 15 minutes to download on a T1 connection. On anything slower than a 56K modem, forget about it.

In an effort to tackle these problems, the World Wide Web Consortium (W3C) has created a new mark-up language especially for multimedia: the Synchronised Multimedia Integration (SMIL). SMIL is a W3C recommendation that came out earlier this year (<http://www.w3.org/AudioVideo>).

SMIL is the html for creating multimedia events on the Web. As html does with text and graphics, SMIL uses tags to help define all aspects of how your media files, audio, video, text, and still graphics should be laid out on the screen, and can create hyperlinks between different elements.

While html is great if you want to lay out text and static graphics, it is not very good at presenting multimedia. In order to create robust and complex multimedia you need a new system of mark-up tags designed specifically to deal with the problems of multimedia, including layout, chronology, bandwidth and file format.

SMIL provides Web designers with exacting control over the layout of a multimedia document through Cascading Style Sheets-positioning (<http://www.independent.co.uk/net/980421ne/story4.html>). CSS-P is used to define individual elements on the page that can be positioned, repositioned, shown, moved, removed, or replaced as needed.

The main difference is in how this code is created. Rather than being placed inside of a <STYLE> tag, SMIL uses the <LAYOUT> tag to define different regions on the screen. Other SMIL tags can

then be used to manipulate these regions as desired.

However, more than the ability to move the elements around, multimedia requires to be able to synchronise the various elements into a time line.

If you have ever worked with multimedia programs such as Director and Flash, or if you come from a movie or television background, you are probably already familiar with the concept of the time line. Time lines co-ordinate the ways in which the various pieces of a multimedia production work together chronologically.

SMIL includes several tags that allow Web designers to dictate when, where and how the multimedia content is presented. You can set when each of the media clips should start and stop, their duration, and whether they loop; and you can also synchronise them together so that they run simultaneously. This is accomplished with simple attributes in html-like tags.

SMIL is now a recommended standard by the W3C and it is likely to be adopted by all major players in the World Wide Web game.

At first SMIL may seem complicated, especially if you have to wade through the turgid W3C SMIL specification (<http://www.w3.org/TR/REC-smil>).

I must admit that I was highly sceptical. However, SMIL is boiled down to fairly simple mark-up tags, much like html. If you can understand how html works, SMIL is not much more difficult.

SMIL is worth keeping an eye on in the coming months. Whether it catches on or not will depend on whether it is supported by the major browsers, and, more important, whether or not you use it in your designs.

Jason Cranford Teague (indy.webdesign@mindspring.com) is the author of "DHTML for the World Wide Web", which is currently available at bookshops, both real and virtual, across the United Kingdom.

An age-old trade at the cutting edge

MY FRIEND Roger and I are headed south on Route 101 from Silicon Valley, passing fields full of migrant workers labouring frantically against a fast approaching storm. The difference between the "haves" and "have nots" is palpable as we glide past in our \$50,000 Jeep.

We're headed to San Luis Obispo to lecture a university computer graphics class about the technological future. Roger, definitely a hi-tech "have", tries to even the score by teaching. It's a seven-hour drive twice a month. Roger's been doing it for three years, without pay, at a state school where students tend to be of modest means.

His big concern this year is his lesson plan. He prepared it in August, and now, in November, he complains that the lecture has lost its relevance in the three months since he wrote it. It's the first time in the three

years that he's had this problem. Hi-tech is high-speed. Roger's problem is that he's a hi-tech heavyweight, at the leading edge of computer graphics. He knows about as much about the field as anyone in the world, and he's having a hard time figuring out what to tell a bunch of kids.

For my part, I'm mentally trying to make my way through the e-commerce tangle. I've been looking at pornography lately - that's the topic, not the material. Porn has been a kind of validator of every new medium. The cognitive psychologist Steven Pinker says that porn is an offshoot of what proved to be a successful reproductive tactic by males who had evolved to be hunter-gatherers. By engaging in sex as frequently as possible, with as many partners as possible, they ensured that at least some children would beat the odds and survive.



CHRIS GULKER

History shows us that pornographers have unerringly picked the winning media

Stephen Hawking notes that our internal genome changes by only a few bits per millennium, while our external environment is changing at an ever accelerating pace. Pornography,

says Pinker, happens when slow, robust, Darwinian processes collide with fast, external ones.

Historically, pornographers have unerringly picked winning media: they picked VHS when videotape appeared, even though Beta's high quality and short run-time better suited skin epics. Ribald tales were among the first fruits of Gutenberg's press, and the pin-up picture was an early product of the process of photography. So perhaps it's significant that porn has flourished on the Internet. And in an era where sexual contact with others can be fatal, perhaps there's something to be said for auto-eroticism: it's safe sex.

Scholars at Carnegie Mellon University did a 1995 study about online porn. They arrived at an understanding of the dynamics driving the online porn industry. They discovered that the Internet strategy of giving things

away free works very well. The leading online pornography business emerged in 1995 after tripling its business by posting free samples in Usenet newsgroups.

The study concluded that the market leader had succeeded not by technological mastery, but by old-fashioned shrewdness. The concern in question figured out what types of pornography were in shortest supply, obtained the goods and then spread the word, widely and inexpensively, on the Net. Their achievement landed management in prison, but that's a separate issue from the business case.

Interestingly, success was based both on an ancient principle - supply and demand - and an ancient urge. While it's probably best for Roger not to lecture his class about the pornography trade, there may be a valuable lesson here.


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BABE: PIG IN
Director: George
Starring: Maggie
Follow-up to "sheep-pig" into becomes the usual Knockabout, com favour of a big verges on the and on Miller's skin side will make of West End: ABC Court Road, Bad House. Elephant Leicester Square Camerica Theatre, North Act, Odessa Fulham

DANCING AT
Director: Pat O'Brien
Starring: Newt
Less a dance than set of pinpoints Catholic family in backbone is Marjorie the brood's eldest Michael Gambon it's not enough, and all too readily accepted End: Curzon

IT'S A WONDER
Director: Frank Capra
Starring: James
Capra's festive but complex than *It Happened One Night* with James never dreary his has never been born, like existence. It's a thick vein of making of the little man in West End: Odessa Phoenix Cinema

ON CONNATT
Director: Alan Resnais
Starring: Pierre
Love him or loathe the auteur Resnais is

ANTZ (PG)
See *The Independent* West End: ABC Tolly & Cofe, Coronet, Camden Town, Odessa, UCI, W. H. Wright Trudgerv

BLADE (18)
Iconic artwork of a vampire killer, blood-sucker. West End: Odessa Kensington Cinema. UCI, W. H. Village West

DEAD MAN'S CH
The students at an American college are then led into regulation that with some mates of such of the same films, West End: shocks, West

LIZABETH (15)
Bethel Kapur's history of a female in male world. Kapur's fun in a story of inequality. West End: Kensington, Odessa, Cottage. Virgin Fulham

THE EXORCIST (R)
The Exorcist is a creep of a year, its legacy still terrifying. B. House, Ritzy Cinema

FEAR AND LOATH
Tim Gilliam's adaptation of the novel is a carnival of and-out is Johnny's companion into hall. End: ABC Brixton, Odessa, Camden

ONLY (15)
Twelve Monkeys and *Primer* to Spanish comedy is transported to Spanish dustmen. West

FT LUGGAGE (15)
Open Krabb's first in an uncertain so flows within a Bag as drama, then for its high-profile Fraser. West End: Zenon Minima, Odessa. Screen on Big

CK, STOCK & T
REELS (18)
Stock And Too's acrobatic is it's copied by who, in game, falls into the Harry to school for. Mezzanine

MISED (18)
The film is a

NEW FILMS

BABE: PIG IN THE CITY (U)

Director: George Miller
Starring: Magda Szubanski, James Cromwell, EG Daily

The follow-up to 1995's *Babe* tosses the hapless "sheep-pig" into the midst of the city where he becomes the unlikely saviour of a bunch of wails. Knockabout comedy is kept to a minimum in favour of a bleak, atmospheric fairytale that verges on the sadistic. Adults should go for a bundle on Miller's skewed, carnival ambience. What kids will make of it is anyone's guess.

West End: ABC Baker Street, ABC Tottenham Court Road, Barbican Screen, Clapham Picture House, Elephant & Castle Coronet, Empire Leicester Square, Hammersmith Virgin, Odeon Camden Town, Odeon Kensington, Odeon Marble Arch, Odeon Swiss Cottage, UCI Whiteleys, Virgin Fulham Road, Virgin Trocadero

DANCING AT LUGHNASSA (PG)

Director: Pat O'Connor

Starring: Meryl Streep, Michael Gambon, Kathy Burke

Less a dance, more of a trudge, O'Connor's Ireland-set saga pinpoints the ebb and flow of an eccentric Catholic family in deepest Donegal. What gives it backbone is Meryl Streep's regal performance as the brood's eldest sister, plus the ever-watchable Michael Gambon as the homecoming brother. But it's not enough, and its static, stage-play origins are all too readily apparent.

West End: Curzon Mayfair, Screen on the Hill

IT'S A WONDERFUL LIFE (U)

Director: Frank Capra

Starring: James Stewart, Donna Reed, Lionel Barrymore

Capra's festive bauble is a lot darker and more complex than it is generally given credit for being, with James Stewart's labouring everyman shown how dreary his hometown would have been had he never been born, before returning merrily to his Job-like existence. Its syrupy sentimentality contains a thick vein of bile, and at the day's end this is the making of the film; turning it into a bittersweet salute to the little man who makes a big difference.

West End: Curzon Soho, Gate Notting Hill, Phoenix Cinema, Ritzy Cinema

ON CONNAT LA CHANSON (PG)

Director: Alain Resnais

Starring: Pierre Arditi, Sabine Azema

Love him or loathe him, *Last Year at Marienbad* auteur Resnais is a queer fish. Four years after the

Continental breakfast he made of Alan Ayckbourn's *Smoking/No Smoking* comes this rattling merry-go-round of romantic intrigue, "inspired by the work of Dennis Potter", and featuring a lot of Potter-esque lip-synching to popular French show tunes. West End: Chelsea Cinema, Renoir

RUSH HOUR (15)

Director: Brett Ratner

Starring: Jackie Chan, Chris Tucker, Tom Wilkinson

Rush Hour marries the Hong Kong action icon Jackie Chan with an LA backdrop, a jobbing Hollywood director (Money Talks' Ratner) and a wise-cracking black comic in Chris Tucker's huckstering LAPD man. Its caffeinated plotline sends Easterner and Westerner on the trail of a Chinese crime syndicate and oscillates wildly between Tucker's verbal dexterity and Chan's adrenalinised physicality. It's a hit-and-miss affair.

West End: Elephant & Castle Coronet, Hammersmith Virgin, Odeon Camden Town, Odeon Kensington, Odeon Marble Arch, Odeon Swiss Cottage, Plaza, Ritzy Cinema, UCI Whiteleys, Virgin Chelsea, Virgin Trocadero, Warner Village West End

TWILIGHT (15)

Director: Robert Benton

Starring: Paul Newman, Susan Sarandon, Gene Hackman

Twilight reunites Newman with his *Nobody's Fool* collaborator Benton for a zimmer-framed film noir which has the former's ageing gunshoe moving in with movie-star buddy Hackman and uncovering a skeleton in the family closet. While this is predictable stuff, muscular acting from a practised cast moves it along nicely.

West End: Plaza

YEAR OF THE HORSE (15)

Director: Jim Jarmusch

Starring: Neil Young and Crazy Horse

Jarmusch's documentary on Neil Young and Crazy Horse is respectful but never reverential, swinging between bracing live footage, robust interviews and discerning dips back into the archive. As a man, though, Young remains oddly oblique and unknowable, loitering in the background for most of the off-stage segments. He's content to let his music do the talking.

West End: ABC Piccadilly, Renoir

Xan Brooks

GENERAL RELEASE

ANTZ (PG)

See *The Independent Recommends*, above.

West End: ABC Tottenham Court Road, Elephant & Castle Coronet, Hammersmith Virgin, Odeon Camden Town, Odeon Kensington, Odeon Marble Arch, Odeon Swiss Cottage, Plaza, Ritzy Cinema, UCI Whiteleys, Virgin Chelsea, Virgin Trocadero

BLADE (15)

Magnificent arcade-game thriller about a New York vampire-killer tackling a power-crazed new bloodsucker. West End: Odeon Camden Town, Odeon Kensington, Odeon Marble Arch, Ritzy Cinema, UCI Whiteleys, Virgin Trocadero, Warner Village West End

DEAD MAN'S CURVE (15)

The students at writer-director Dan Rosen's American college are trying to butcher each other, led into temptation by an obscure regulation that awards straight A-grades to the romances of suicides. Though not as nasty as some of the films, this delivers a respectable quota of shocks. West End: Metro, Virgin Trocadero

ELIZABETH (15)

Shekhar Kapur's follow-up to *Bandit Queen* is the story of a female struggling to gain purchase in a male world. Kapur largely neglects the chance for fun in a story of independence triumphing over cruelty. West End: Odeon Haymarket, Odeon Kensington, Odeon Mezzanine, Odeon Swiss Cottage, Virgin Fulham Road

THE EXORCIST (25TH ANNIVERSARY RE-RELEASE) (18)

The Exorcist is a creature conditioned by rumour and hearsay, its legend swelling in the 25 years since its release. But William Friedkin's horror is still terrifying. West End: Clapham Picture House, Ritzy Cinema, Warner Village West End

FEAR AND LOATHING IN LAS VEGAS (18)

Terry Gilliam's adaptation tilts at Ralph Steadman cartoonery for its tale of a drug-fuelled journalistic assignment. The film soon descends into a carnival of narcotic lunacy, and the one stand-out is Johnny Depp who brings Hunter S. Thompson into bald-headed, pigeon-toed life. West End: ABC Baker Street, Empire Leicester Square, Odeon Camden Town, Virgin Haymarket

IF ONLY (15)

Mix *Twelve Monkeys* with *Four Weddings and a Funeral* and you'd get Maria Ripoll's dreadful Anglo-Spanish comedy about a dumped boyfriend who is transported back in time by mysterious Spanish dustmen. West End: Odeon Mezzanine

LEFT LUGGAGE (PG)

Jeroen Krabbé's first stab as a director results in an uncertain soap opera, focusing on the ebbs and flows within a Hasidic family in 1970s Holland. Fitful as drama, the film comes to life as a showcase for its high-profile performers and newcomer Laura Fraser. West End: ABC Swiss Centre, Curzon Minima, Odeon Swiss Cottage, Phoenix Cinema, Screen on Baker Street

LOCK, STOCK & TWO SMOKING BARRELS (18)

Lock, Stock and Two Smoking Barrels defining characteristic is its resilient morality. The picture is peopled by thugs, both amateur and professional. Young Eddy, who comes unstuck in a high-stakes card-game, falls into the former category; but Hatcher Harry, to whom he owes £500,000, is an old-school pro. West End: Odeon Kensington, Odeon Mezzanine, Warner Village West End

LES MISERABLES (12)

Bille August turns Victor Hugo's novel into an enormous film and it's as traditional as literary

adaptations come these days. It's earnest, differential and almost humourless. West End: Odeon West End

MULAN (U)

In Disney's animated feature, a girl disguises herself as a soldier to spare her father from a combat. This has got it all. A pro-active heroine; a strong father/daughter relationship; honour and nobility; and, of course, cross-dressing. It's also visually innovative. West End: Hammersmith Virgin, Odeon Camden Town, Odeon Kensington, Odeon Marble Arch, Odeon Mezzanine, Odeon Swiss Cottage, UCI Whiteleys, Virgin Chelsea, Virgin Trocadero, Warner Village West End

MY NAME IS JOE (15)

See *The Independent Recommends*, above.

West End: ABC Tottenham Court Road, Ritzy Cinema, Screen on the Green, Virgin Chelsea, Virgin Haymarket

THE NEGOTIATOR (15)

Samuel L. Jackson and Kevin Spacey go head to head in Gray's thrilling drama. The script has a predilection for lunk-headed swearing that sounds uneasy in the mouths of such articulate, rhetorical performers. West End: ABC Tottenham Court Road, Hammersmith Virgin, Notting Hill Coronet, Odeon Camden Town, Odeon Marble Arch, UCI Whiteleys, Virgin Fulham Road, Virgin Trocadero, Warner Village West End

OUT OF SIGHT (15)

See *The Independent Recommends*, above.

West End: Barbican Screen, Clapham Picture House, Elephant & Castle Coronet, Empire Leicester Square, Gate Notting Hill, Hammersmith Virgin, Odeon Camden Town, Odeon Kensington, Odeon Marble Arch, Odeon Swiss Cottage, Ritzy Cinema, Screen on Baker Street, UCI Whiteleys, Virgin Chelsea, Virgin Trocadero

THE PHILADELPHIA STORY (U)

As civilised and graceful as any romantic comedy ever made. West End: Curzon Soho

RONIN (15)

A tired espionage thriller about a gang of mercenaries in pursuit of a mysterious suitcase. As the leader of the gang, Robert De Niro does his blank-faced, gristle-chewing act. As dull as ditch-water. West End: Odeon Camden Town, Odeon Kensington, Odeon Leicester Square, Odeon Marble Arch, Odeon Swiss Cottage, Odeon West End, UCI Whiteleys, Virgin Fulham Road

ROUNDERS (15)

John Dahl's poker-club thriller is not a grand comeback for the director of *The Last Seduction* but it's certainly an improvement on the eminently forgettable *Unforgettable*. West End: Virgin Chelsea, Warner Village West End

SLIMS OF BEVERLY HILLS (15)

Tamara Jenkins's fictionalised account of her own teenage years in the outskirts of Beverly Hills lacks the wit of *The Ice Storm* and *Boogie Nights*. But her impeccable sense of comic timing is enhanced by a superb central performer in Alan Arkin. West End: ABC Shaftesbury Avenue, Ritzy Cinema

VICTORY (15)

A Conrad adaptation which takes us to a sleazy hotel in the South Seas, and provides some safe, literary acting from Simon Callow and friends. West End: ABC Pantons Street, Clapham Picture House

THE WISDOM OF CROCODILES (15)

Jude Law plays a vampire who wines and dines his victims. An attempt to give an adult twist to a genre that's principally an adolescent enthusiasm. West End: ABC Pantons Street, ABC Shaftesbury Avenue, Clapham Picture House

THE INDEPENDENT RECOMMENDS

THE FIVE BEST FILMS

Out of Sight (15)

This tale of love on opposite sides of the law from director Steven Soderbergh manages to knock spots off every previous Elmore Leonard adaptation, and boasts in George Clooney and Jennifer Lopez the most romantic pairing of the cinematic year.



Antz (PG)

Computer-animated comedy voiced by a stellar cast stars Woody Allen as a worker ant who becomes an unlikely opponent of the colony's totalitarian regime. Good fun, and Allen's best work in a while.

My Name is Joe (15)

All that one would expect from a Ken Loach film - humour, indignation, emotional sympathy - driven by Peter Mullan's scary, intense performance as a recovering alcoholic.

Ronin (15)

John Frankenheimer's action thriller is buttressed by a fine international cast (Robert De Niro, Jean Reno, Stellan Skarsgård), moody French locations and a clutch of supercharged car chases.

The Fountainhead (PG: Curzon Soho, NFT)

Gary Cooper (above) plays a visionary architect who refuses to buckle under mob pressure in King Vidor's astonishing adaptation of the Ayn Rand novel. Patricia Neal smoulders opposite him.

ANTHONY QUINN

THE FIVE BEST PLAYS

The Invention of Love

A witty, heartbreaking fantasia by Tim Stoppard on the twin passions of AE Housman, scholarship and an unlikely heterosexual friend.

Love Upon the Throne

The Charles and Diana story (well, up to the divorce) presented by the NTB (all two of them). Very funny and oddly touching.

Kafka's Dick Piccadilly Theatre

Spiriting Kafka to suburban England, this hilarious romp by Alan Bennett survives some peculiar casting in Peter Hall's revival.

Twelfth Night

This perfectly thought-through production by Michael Grandage evokes an Illyria where storms rage as much within as without.

Richard III

RSC, Cardiff New Theatre Charismatic Robert Lindsay (right) limps rings round the other characters in Elijah Moshinsky's gripping production of Shakespeare's play.



PAUL TAYLOR

THE FIVE BEST SHOWS

Mirror Image National Gallery

A magpie's delight. Jonathan Miller curates a show of mirrors and shiny surfaces in painting, with virtuoso reflections from Van Eyck's *Arnolfini* portrait to Helen Chadwick's *Lanitas*. To 13 Dec

Louise Bourgeois Serpentine Gallery

Autobiographical installations from the surrealist sculptress feature a giant mother spider presiding over images of spinning and weaving, restoration and decay. To 10 Jan

Bridget Riley

Abbott Hall, Kendal

A retrospective of Bridget Riley's work from her early Sixties Op Art, moving from rippling monochromes to colour, stripes and diagonals. To 31 Jan

Edward Burne-Jones

Birmingham Museum & Art Gallery

The people's Pre-Raphaelite centenary exhibition gathers together many favourites such as *King Cophetua* and *The Beggar Maid*. To 10 Jan

Chris Offili Whitworth Gallery, Manchester

Turner Prize winner Offili (above) is an upbeat original, his surfaces dense and decorative, with swirls of dots, eyes, Afros and black icons, and incorporating balls of elephant dung. To 24 Jan



TOM LUBBOCK

CINEMA

WEST END

ABC BAKER STREET (0870 9020418) @ Baker Street
Babe: Pig In The City 1.20pm, 3.40pm, 6.10pm, 8.40pm
Fest: 2.25pm, 5.25pm, 8.15pm

ABC PANTON STREET (0870 9020404) @ Piccadilly
City The Last Day of the Pompeii 1.10pm, 3.40pm, 6pm, 8.25pm
A Perfect Murder 2.40pm, 5.40pm, 8.20pm
Victory 1.10pm, 3.35pm, 6.05pm, 8.35pm
The Wisdom of Crocodiles 1.10pm, 3.30pm, 6pm, 8.30pm

ABC PICCADILLY (0171-287 4522) (from 1pm)
@ Piccadilly Circus
Turkish Bath 1.25pm, 3.50pm, 6.10pm, 8.35pm
Year of the Horse 1.20pm, 3.50pm, 6.10pm, 8.30pm

ABC SHAFTESBURY AVENUE (0870 9020402) @ Leicester Square
Slums of Beverly Hills 3.50pm, 5.50pm, 8.55pm
Joe 1.45pm, 4.15pm, 6.45pm, 9.15pm
Revolution 1.05pm, 3.25pm, 5.50pm, 8.25pm

ABC SWISS CENTRE (0870 9020403) @ Leicester Square
Piccadilly Circus
Sharks 1.30pm, 3.25pm, 5.20pm, 7.15pm, 9.10pm
The Governor 1.45pm, 4.05pm, 6.25pm, 8.45pm
Left Luggage 1.30pm, 3.30pm, 5.30pm, 7.30pm, 9.30pm
La Vie Revee Des Anges 1.25pm, 3.45pm, 6.05pm, 8.25pm

ABC TOTTENHAM COURT ROAD (0870 9020414) @ Tottenham Court Road
Antz 1.25pm, 3.40pm, 6.40pm
Babe: Pig In The City 1.35pm, 4pm, 7.05pm, 9.30pm
My Name Is Joe 1.40pm, 4.20pm, 7.20pm, 9.40pm
The Negotiator 3.40pm, 6.50pm, 8.50pm

BARBICAN SCREEN (0171-638 8891) @ Barbican
Babe: Pig In The City 1.30pm, 3.30pm, 6pm, 8.15pm
Out of Sight 6pm, 8.40pm

CHELSEA CINEMA (0171-351 3742) @ Sloane Square
On Connait La Chanson 1pm, 3.30pm, 6pm, 8.35pm

CLAPHAM PICTURE HOUSE (0171-498 3323) @ Clapham Common
Babe: Pig In The City 1.45pm, 4.15pm, 6.45pm, 9.30pm
The Exorcist (25th Anniversary Rerelease) 4.30pm, 9.15pm
Out of Sight 1.30pm, 4.30pm, 7.30pm, 10.30pm
The Wisdom of Crocodiles 7pm

CURZON MAYFAIR (0171-369 1720) @ Green Park
Dancing At Lughnassa 2pm, 4.15pm, 6.30pm, 9pm

CURZON SOHO (0171-734 2255) (12pm-6pm)
@ Leicester Square
The El 1.30pm, 4.15pm, 6.45pm, 9.15pm
The Fountainhead 2.45pm, 7.15pm
Henry Fool 3.20pm, 5pm
It's A Wonderful Life 12.45pm, 6.30pm
The Philadelphia Story 12.30pm, 5pm, 9.30pm

ELPHANT & CASTLE CORONET (0171-703 4968) @ Elephant & Castle
Antz 3.45pm, 5.40pm, 8.20pm, 8.30pm
Out of Sight 8.35pm
Rush Hour 4.10pm, 6.30pm, 8.45pm

EMPIRE LEICESTER SQUARE (0890-888990) @ Leicester Square
Babe: Pig In The City 1.11am, 1.15pm, 3.45pm, 6.15pm, 8.45pm
Fear And Loathing In Las Vegas 12.40pm, 3.30pm, 6.10pm, 9pm
Out of Sight 12.10pm, 2.55pm, 5.50pm, 8.35pm

GATE NOTTING HILL (0171-727 4043) @ Notting Hill
Gate It's A Wonderful Life 1.10pm (at Short Whoosh) Out of Sight 3.40pm, 9pm

HAMMERSMITH VIRGIN (0870-9070718) @ Hammersmith
Antz 2.30pm, 4.40pm, 6.40pm, 8.40pm
Babe: Pig In The City 2.10pm, 4.10pm, 6.30pm, 8.50pm
The Negotiator 8.40pm Out of Sight 12.50pm, 3.30pm, 6.20pm, 9.10pm
Rush Hour 1pm, 3.35pm, 6.10pm, 8.45pm

ICA CINEMA (0171-930 3647) @ Charing Cross
Bernie 6.30pm, 8.30pm
The Parallax View 5pm, 7pm
Das Schloss 9.15pm

METRO (0171-734 1506) @ Piccadilly
Circus/Leicester Square
Buffalo 66 1pm, 3.30pm, 8.30pm
Dead Man's Curve 5pm, 8pm
German Film Festival phone for details

CURZON MINIMA (0171-369 1723) @ Hyde Park
Cork/Kilgubridge
Luggage 2.50pm, 6.50pm
La Vie Revee Des Anges 4.40pm, 8.40pm

NOTTING HILL CORONET (0171-727 6705) @ Notting Hill
Gate The Negotiator 2.15pm, 5.15pm, 8.15pm

ODEON CAMDEN TOWN (08705 050007) @ Camden Town
Antz 12.55pm, 3.30pm, 6.40pm, 8.45pm, 8.55pm
The Negotiator 12.25pm, 3.10pm, 5.10pm, 8.35pm Out of Sight 12.10pm, 3pm, 5.55pm, 8.35pm
Ronin 3.15pm, 6pm, 8.45pm
Rush Hour 12.10pm, 2.20pm, 4.30pm, 6.40pm, 9pm

ODEON HAYMARKET (08705 050007) @ Piccadilly
Circus Elizabeth 2.15pm, 5pm, 7.45pm

ODEON KENSINGTON (08705 050007) @ High Street
Kensington Antz 12.50pm, 2.50pm, 4.50pm
Babe: Pig In The City 12.15pm, 2.40pm, 5.05pm, 7.30pm, 9.55pm
Blade 6.50pm, 8.45pm, 8.55pm
Out of Sight 12.20pm, 3.20pm, 6.20pm, 9.30pm
Ronin 12.30pm, 3.25pm, 6.20pm, 9.15pm
Rush Hour 1.50pm, 4.25pm, 7pm, 9.35pm
Snake Eyes 1.45pm, 4.20pm, 9.45pm

Channel 5

TELEVISION REVIEW



2.45 Battersea Dogs' Home. New series on abandoned lurchy friends. *Paid* **Heaven**, anyone? (T) (4827282).

3.28 Children's BBC: Playdays (T) (S) (318653). **3.45 Enchanted Landscapes (T) (S) (8657642).** **3.58 Little Monsters (S) (333007).** **4.00 Animal Magic Show (S) (T) (527290).** **4.18 Alvin (S) (T) (2546574).** **4.40 Goosebumps (S) (T) (2830038).** **5.00 Newsround (S) (T) (251897).** **5.50 Blue Peter (S) (T) (223907).**

5.55 Neighbourhood (S) (T) (87466).

6.00 Newsday Weather (T) (378).

6.30 Regional News (T) (868).

7.00 This to Your Life (S) (T) (3200).

7.30 Hero and Now. More live current affairs, with Juliet Morris (S) (T) (7942).

8.00 Eastenders. The residents of Albert Square greet Grant up to the police - an old East End tradition. The Arnie-Giant saga warms up (S) (T) (8630).

8.30 Birds of a Feather. Dorian decides to manage Sharon's modelling career (S) (T) (6765).

9.00 News Regional News (Digital UK Today): Weather (T) (7945).

9.30 Man Batching Beefy. Age-old repeat of the splendour where the 'beefy' have the girls test-dive over when the 'girls' go away for the weekend (S) (S) (3228).

10.00 Panorama. On the eve of the 50th anniversary of the Good Friday Agreement, a report on the UN's failure to end the conflict and a challenge to stop the Republican movement (S) (8690).

10.30 The News. A special anniversary acknowledgement that there was homophobia (T) (869072).

5.10 Home and Away (S) (T) (612665).

5.40 News, Weather (T) (471552).

6.00 London Tonight (T) (674).

6.30 London Bridge. Cillie's recovery is proving traumatic for Isobel. Sam gives Paul an ultimatum. Neil and Luke take their relationship a step further. (S) (249).

7.00 What You Were Here...? With Anthea Turner in Barcelona and Judith Chairman and Julian Clary in Prague (S) (T) (66889).

7.30 Corporation Street. Greg is furious when Sally fights back. Natalie ignores Colin's pleas. (T) (610).

8.00 World in Action. Yet another documentary on the destructive effects of alcohol. Is there some agenda in TVland that we're missing? (S) (T) (7216).

8.30 Great Scooper. A baby kicked by a runaway motorbike, a pilot crashing at an airshow and a puppy trapped in a drain. (S) (T) (3823).

9.00 [REDACTED] McCallum. John Hannah is replaced by heartthrob Michael Parker. See *Drama of the Day*, below. (S) (T) (5028).

10.00 News, Weather (T) (54216).

1.30 FILM *Ado* (Daniel Mann 1961 US). A rather good picture produced with Susan Hayward and Dean Jagger (T) (68553).

3.30 FILM *Collector's Lot* (T) (804). **4.00** *Films to One* (T) (839). **4.30** *Continuity* (T) (8973555). **4.35** *Morris Williams* (S) (T) (72308007).

5.30 Post Records Roadshow (S) (T) (803).

6.00 Footage. Darden's 'Sweet 16' party (R) (S) (T) (218).

6.30 Hollywood. Carol finds out about Lucy's heroic adventures (T) (6569).

7.00 Channel 4 News; Weather (T) (808397).

7.55 Artspanpannia. Exhibitions and installations in the North-west of England earlier this year (T) (878320).

8.00 Planet Utopia. The good actor machines find, where he means a client-ood, rdes a brake-out down the Daffodil railway and imitates some Bonnyay eccentric (T) (3804).

9.00 PHONE WITHRAE. Sally Becker, the 'Angel of Mister'. See Documentary of the Day, below (T) (8569).

10.00 Anatomy of Desire. The exploration of human sexual behaviour concludes with a history of romantic love. Does it exist? And can I hear? (T) (856043).

100 Per Cent Gold (S) (1983/87), **2.30** Good Afternoon (S) (2564/84).

3.30 FLIX Where the Ladies Go (Theodora J. Flicker 1980 US). Faxeable TV movie about a bar catering to bored housewives and errant husbands. More eatable than it sounds (T) (8485/87).

5.00 The Roseanne Show. Roseanne puts in absolutely no effort once again. Joan: No longer A-list! Collins guestie (7/87/15).

5.00 100 Per Cent (S) (2725/13).

5.30 Family Affairs. Nick goes into Pamela's house. Else threatens to go on holiday with Annie. Roy causes a rift between Mel and Joan (S) (T) (7164/85).

5.30 5 News, Including Foot on Five. With Kirsty Young (S) (T) (1982/83).

7.30 Wetazy World. A whale-rescue service otl the Newfoundland coast is started by volunteers who cut the membrane out of carelessly deployed fishing nets (S) (T) (2728/89).

8.00 Floyd Uncovered. Keith Floyd strips the wires of Provence (S) (T) (8705/10).

8.30 Weather Front. A new series exploring the weather, kicking off with a programme about hurricanes (S) (T) (1982/85).

9.00 FLIX The Wharf Rat (Jimmy Huston 1985 US). Reasonable much-or-I-can Diamond Phillips as a crook bent on revenge for the murder of his brother. Good cast, acceptable pacing (S) (T) (8603/20).

MI-375608

JVC

FILM OF THE DAY

[illegible]

8.00 GMTV (#66161) **9.25 Thine (S)** (T) (#167874) **10.45 This Morning (T)** (#504752) **12.30 Your Show!** (#35755) **12.30 News: Weather (T)** (#3723) **1.00 London Today (T)** (#77200) **1.30 The Jerry Springer Show (S)** (T) (#473378) **2.40 Home and Away (S)** (T) (#645610) **2.40 Animal SOS (S)** (#429674) **3.10 ITN News Headlines (T)** (#368107)

3.20 Children's ITV: Wizardra (R) (#451674) **3.35 Titch** (#256755) **3.50 Scooby & Co (S)** (T) (#356378) **4.15 A Attack (S)** (T) (#48246) **4.45 Sabrina, the Teenage Witch (S)** (T) (#970466)

5.10 Home and Away (S) (T) (#112665).

5.40 News: Weather (T) (#74552).

6.00 London Tonight (T) (#74).

6.30 London Bridge. Cill's recovery is proving traumatic for local Sam given her ultimatum. Neil and Luke take their relationship a step further. (S) (#26).

7.00 Wish You Were Here...? With Anthea Turner in Bag and Judith Chalmers and Julian Clary in Prague (S) (T) (#6688).

7.30 Coronation Street. Greg is furious when Sally fights back. Natalie ignores Colin's pleas (T) (#10).

8.00 World in Action. Yet another documentary on the destructive effects of alcohol, do these some agenda in TVland that we're missing? (S) (T) (#716).

8.30 Greek Scoop. A baby kicked by a runaway motorhorse, a pilot crashing at an airshow and a puppy trapped in a drain (S) (T) (#823).

9.00 Nightclub Macellum. John Hannah is replaced by Michael McManus. Veronicas Parker: Sex Drama of the Day, below (S) (T) (#23).

10.00 News: Weather (T) (#4216).

10.30 London Tonight. Flagrant news update for the capital and the South-East (T) (#44835).

10.40 Macellum. Conclusion of tonight's drama (S) (T) (#65162).

11.00 Stuff the Weak (S) (#82700) **12.50 Public Morale** (#592789) **12.45 Nationwide Football League Extra** (#37576) **1.45 World Football** (#98477) **2.10 Chicago/Vision (S)** (#284578) **2.50 Thine (R)** (S) (T) (#988322) **3.35 World in Action (S)** (T) (#956775) **4.00 Sundraxis (S)** (#700434) **4.20 ITV Nightscreen** (#285655) **5.30 ITN Morning News** (#7030) 10 Gem.

7.00 The Big Breakfast (5) (T) (27/705) **9.00** Home Movies (R) (989/759).

9.35 FILM *Mr. Belvedere Rings the Bell* (Henry Koster, 1951 US). Clifton Webb has to turn up at an old people's home "the school, *Sitting Pretty*, is showing on Wednesday. Top scheduling (987/97223).

11.00 FILM *Billy Badmouth*. Story about a boy and his doggie (776/574) **11.20** Fogg (989/225) **11.30** Hearts One I Made Earlier (R) (5) (T) (9820) **12.00** Sesame Street (5129) **12.30** Dream of Jeanne (T) (43705) **1.00** Judge Joe Brown (77222).

1.30 FILM *Ado* (Daniel Mann, 1961 US). A rather good political melodrama with Susan Hayward and Dean Martin (T) (56553).

3.30 FILM *Collector's Lot* (T) (804) **4.00** Fitteen to One (T) (839) **4.30** Countdown (T) (9873552) **4.55** Mornie Williams (S) (T) (7203077).

5.30 Pet Rescue Roadshow (S) (T) (303).

6.00 Footsies. Darlene's "Sweet 16" party (R) (5) (T) (218).

6.30 Hollywoodka. Carol finds out about Lucy's heroic adventures (T) (569).

7.00 Channel 4 News; Weather (T) (308397).

7.55 Artspanpannia. Exhibitions and installations in the North-west of England earlier this year (T) (978200).

8.00 Planet Uddah. The good actor makes a little more of his teeth. The spot after a machine that the Darlingling railway and imitates some Bondage eccentricity (T) (3804).

8.00 FILM *Witness*. Selly Becker, the "Angel of Kloster". See Documentary of the Day, below (T) (9856)

9.00 *Anything of Desire*. The exploration of human sexual behaviour continues with a history of romantic love. Does it exist? And can it last? (T) (975604).

10.00 *The Thing In...* *Boradom* (R) (S) (T) (7427578) **5.35** Some the Hedding (140242) **5.55** Steanne Street (8437923) **7.00** *Yan*

11.08 Reggae Boyz the Fanz (T) (27494) **12.05** To Be Black Man (T) (7841089) **12.50** Hoi (722359) **2.00** Phat Nation (98688) **2.30** Booked (R) (T) (9804330) **3.45** Dispatches (T) (70382).

3.48 FILM *Claudio and David* (Mikel Lang, 1946 US). Dorothy Mabella and Robert Young have a baby (677021).

5.05 The Thing In... *Boradom* (R) (S) (T) (7427578) **5.35** Some the Hedding (140242) **5.55** Steanne Street (8437923) **7.00** *Yan*

5.00 5 News and Sport (S) (6523449, **7.00** *WetWorld* (S) (6378157), **7.30** *Winnamuel* (S) (2613571), **7.35** *Winnies House* (S) (6656397), **8.00** *Harekazzoo* (R) (7386022), **8.30** *Downdown Farm* (7955357), **9.00** *The Great House Game* (S) (S) (7) (6527679), **9.25** *Russell Glenn's Racecourse* (S) (4426184), **9.30** *The Ocean Winery Show* (6510623), **10.00** *Sunniel Beach* (S) (7210365), **11.00** *Lezza* (S) (6632755), **12.00** *St. Anne at Noon* (S) (7) (795813), **12.30** *Family Alliance* (S) (6203623), **1.00** *The Book and the Beauty* (S) (S) (7) (6203623), **1.30** *Sons and Daughters* (291594), **2.00** *100 Per Cent* (S) (6653594), **2.30** *Good Afternoon* (S) (2561049).

3.30 **3.30** *When the Ladies Go* (Theodora J. Fitcher **1880** US). Phrases TV movie about a hat referring to her housewives and ardent husbands. More emblems than it sounds (T) (48555557).

5.00 **5.00** *The Roseanne Show*. Roseanne puts in absolutely no effort once again. Joan "No longer A-lit" Collins guestie (798715).

5.00 **100 Per Cent** (S) (7275113).

6.30 **6.30** *Family Affairs*. Nick goes into Pamela's house. Else threatens to go on holiday with Annie. Roy causes a rift between Mel and Joan (S) (7) (7164163).

7.00 **7.00** *5 News, Including First on Five*. With Kirsty Young (S) (7) (7881823).

7.30 **7.30** *Watney World*. A whale-rescue service all the Newfoundland coast is staffed by volunteers who cut the mammalian out of carelessly deployed fishing nets. (S) (7) (7272459).

8.00 **8.00** *Floyd Uncovered*. Keith Floyd strips the wires of Provence (S) (7) (707012).

8.30 **8.30** *Weather Front*. A new series exploring the weather, kicking off with a programme about hurricanes (S) (7) (7982945).

9.00 **9.00** *Elton: The Wharf Rat* (Jimmy Huston, 1995 US). Reasonable match-for-TV actioner, judge Reinhold as a bent copster and Lou Diamond Phillips as a crook bent on revenge for the murder of his brother. Good cast, acceptable pacing (S) (7) (68653026).

10.35 **10.35** *Dr Fox's Chart Update* (S) (6394219).

10.40 **10.40** *ELTON History of the World - Part 1* (Mel Brooks 1981 US). Dismisses set of tales on world history includes the quest for fire, Moses, the fall of the Roman Empire... As with all the films, don't expect anything akin to reality. The features endear celebrity cameo and narration by Ozon Velaz (7) (7024244).

12.00 **12.00** *NFL American Football - Live Green Bay Packers vs Tampa Bay Buccaneers* (S) (6013585), **4.00** *Good Wild* (4608877), **4.40** *Phonetic*: Call Block H (3483449), **5.30** *100 Per Cent* (S) (S) (73288394), to Gam.

TELEVISION GUIDE by SENEVA MACKAY